

Faces of Poverty, Faces of Hope

Vulnerability Profiles
for *Decade of Roma Inclusion* countries

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Introduction:

Why these profiles?

Alleviating poverty and overcoming exclusion is now a global challenge. All countries—both developing and developed economies—face poverty, although in various forms. Poverty pockets and excluded, marginalized groups exist throughout Europe, depriving whole communities of equal participation in development.

The countries of Central and Southeastern Europe face similar problems. The rate of transition there varies widely among different socio-economic groups, with some vulnerable populations, such as the Roma, in danger of being left behind.

The Millennium Development Goals agenda

The occasion of the millennium prompted the United Nations Secretary General, as well as most of the world, to analyze past human development trends and their future directions. To address the global challenge of poverty, UN members accepted a comprehensive agenda for human development, including eight selected goals, targets with deadlines and quantitative indicators. The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) originate from the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State, and adopted at the Millennium Summit at UN Headquarters, New York in September 2000. These goals were selected in an effort to tackle the world's most important development challenges.

The eight UN Millennium Development Goals are intended to help governments take action to improve the situation of poor and marginalized social groups. They are as follows:

- Goal 1 calls for halving absolute poverty (defined as living below PPP\$1/day; PPP\$4/day for developed countries such as those in Central Europe) by the year 2015.
- Goal 2 envisions 100 percent primary school completion by 2015.
- Goal 3 supports gender equality, empowering women and eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education.
- Goal 4 calls for reducing child mortality by two thirds by 2015.
- Goal 5 aims to reduce maternal mortality by 75 percent.
- Goal 6 deals with combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other socially significant diseases.
- Goal 7 addresses environmental causes of poverty.
- Goal 8 calls for building global partnerships for development.

Each of these goals includes a number of specific and measurable targets (such as improving access to safe water, sanitation and increasing access to development opportunities for different groups).

Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators is appropriate not just for developing countries but for developed nations, too. While reaching the national targets is not a problem for developed countries, poverty pockets and excluded communities can be hidden within the national averages. The real challenge is meeting the respective MDG targets for marginalized groups.

Roma and the MDGs

Roma communities are an example of a group deprived of the benefits of transition. The depth and magnitude of problems Roma face require concerted action through an inclusive approach involving government, civil society and other partners working together. UNDP has consistently called for MDG disaggregation, so that the concerns of those most in

need are reflected. *Avoiding the Dependency Trap*, the 2002 award-winning regional report on the status of Roma in five Central European countries, called for monitoring Roma MDGs as a necessary analytical tool for improving the situation of these groups. Two prerequisites were necessary, however: governments' political commitment and relevant data.

Political Commitment

Political commitment came with the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which grew out of the June 2003 conference 'Roma in an Expanding Europe: Challenges for the Future,' hosted by the Government of Hungary. The World Bank, Open Society Institute and the European Commission organized the conference, with support from UNDP, the Council of Europe Development Bank and the governments of Finland and Sweden. At this high-level conference, five prime ministers and high-level representatives from eight countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovakia) made a political commitment to close the gap in welfare and living conditions between the Roma and the non-Roma and to break the vicious circle of poverty and exclusion. The governments' Action Plans elaborated and implemented during the Decade of Roma Inclusion correspond to the MDGs, i.e. poverty, employment, education, health and housing. At a practical level, the Decade is an opportunity for countries to meet the MDG targets for Europe's most vulnerable group—the Roma—providing another link between the Decade implementation and the long-term commitments of UNDP as an MDG campaign manager and scorekeeper.

The need for disaggregated data

Next was the data. Without a means to measure both the implementation of policies and monitoring, MDGs risk becoming merely hollow slogans. Governments, donors and implementing partners require quantitative data to outline priorities and measure progress. Disaggregated quantitative data is a precondition for relevant national policies for sustainable inclusion of vulnerable groups, the Roma in particular.

Therefore, UNDP decided to conduct a comprehensive survey of Roma and other vulnerable groups in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The survey was designed to map the Roma vulnerability levels compared to other groups. Its purpose was to provide both important analytical inputs and a baseline for the Decade implementation and its progress monitoring.

No less important were the capacity development aspects. The very process behind the survey was as important as the results. The survey was not conventional data collection because a set of crucial questions regarding disaggregated data collection, MDG monitoring and reporting in Central and East European countries is still open:

- How to distinguish communities?
- How to define vulnerable groups (in the case of the Roma, who are the Roma)?
- What sources of data can and should be used?
- How to obtain it?
- How to deal with privacy, with multiple identities?

Another set of issues emerged related to the mechanics of monitoring and reporting MDG-related indicators at sub-national levels:

- Should international targets and benchmarks be used to measure progress?
- What should be considered a country's commitment? Meeting the targets at the national level or for all distinct groups?
- Can a country be considered meeting its MDG targets if certain marginalized groups (like the Roma) fall well behind?

These methodological challenges added new dimensions to the survey and turned it into a rather long-term process. UNDP established an Experts' Group on data and measurements whose task was the elaboration of consistent and comparable approaches to the issue of quantitative socio-economic data disaggregated for major vulnerable groups. The group's purpose was to suggest specific (and feasible) ways of overcoming existing barriers in the area of ethnically disaggregated data collection so that in a few years the capacity for disaggregated data collection is in place at the country level. By 2006–2007, the whole responsibility for data collection should be transferred to the relevant bodies in the individual countries.

Outline of the survey methodology

The objective of the survey was to provide quantitative and comparable data on development problems and challenges of vulnerable groups and Roma in particular in Central and Southeastern Europe. Given the launch of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in 2005, the survey was supposed to provide baseline data that will enable measuring the progress in achieving MDG indicators for Roma. Of course, the survey is sample-based research and cannot be as representative as a household budget survey would be. But it still provides quantitative data enabling the rough calculation of poverty lines, poverty depth, employment/unemployment rates, educational levels, educational attainment and housing conditions. Based on this data, a set of indicators can be calculated that is consistent with the individual-oriented indicators envisaged by the Millennium Development Goals monitoring.

The survey instrument and main assumptions

The **survey questionnaire** was designed accordingly to:

- Reflect the logic of MDG goals and provide necessary data for computation at the individual and household level
- Monitor MDG indicators.

It followed the philosophy of an integrated household survey with separate components containing both household and individual modules. Within the individual module, each household member's profile was registered (demographic characteristics, economic status, education, health). The household module addressed issues related to the household in general (dwelling type, access to and type of use of basic infrastructure, household items and possessions, etc.). Questions related to incomes and expenditures were addressed in both modules making it possible to crosscheck the results.

The primary **universe under study** was the whole population of areas with present or over-represented proportion of Roma community. These were defined as administrative units/settlements where the share of the Roma population equals or is higher than the national share of Roma population in the given country as reflected in census data.

Of course, in most countries Roma are underreported in censuses. Officially registered figures on Roma population traditionally differ from the experts' estimates. Hence the first assumption of the survey: Censuses understate the absolute number of the Roma population, but provide a reasonably adequate picture of its structure and territorial distribution mainly for those who identify themselves as Roma. The second assumption was that major disparities in socio-economic status of the populations are most obvious (and can be explored best) at the municipal level (or other relevant territorial units). Since at this level vulnerability factors exist that affect both Roma and the majority populations, vulnerability profiles of the two groups (Roma and the majority) in the same territorial unit would make possible the identification of those vulnerability factors that particularly affect Roma.

General principles of the sample design

The most difficult problem was 'Who are the Roma?' and determining how to identify the respondents. The primary objective of the survey was to map vulnerability of groups with common socio-economic, cultural and linguistic patterns—not the exact way they refer to themselves.

Given the fact that Roma identity is often associated with underclass status and/or discrimination, avoiding self-identification as 'Roma' is a logical pattern. Simply asking, "Are you Roma?" does not work. Another challenge was the lack of clarity on identification criteria and the multiple identities people tend to have (particularly Roma). A question "Are you Roma?" implicitly suggests its opposite wording ("You aren't Bulgarian, Romanian, Macedonian, etc"). There can be much confusion regarding a person's ethnicity, nationality and citizenship.

This is why relying solely on self-identification would not produce a representative sample. On the other hand, forcing people into certain categories, applying external identification only, is not acceptable either. Given these considerations, a compromise between the two, self-identification and external identification, was reached within the 'implicit endorsement of identification'.

Sample design took place in three stages. First, the universe was defined using an 'average and above' share of

Roma in each administrative unit/settlement. Second, sampling clusters were determined taking into consideration estimations of Roma organizations (suggesting, for example, that in municipality 'X' Roma dominate, but for various reasons tend to be reported or declare themselves as 'Y' or 'Z'), the distribution of the settlements and population size. Third, respondents were identified using 'random route' selection.

At different stages, internal (self-identification) or external (outsider's) identification prevailed: self-identification (reported during the census) at the first stage, external (assessment of local people, NGOs, experts) at the second. At the final, third stage (respondents' selection), the two identification methods were confirmed or rejected by 'implicit endorsement of identification'. This means that having identified the sample clusters and the households to be interviewed, the introductory sentence at the beginning of the interview was "Good morning/day, we are conducting a survey among the Roma population. Would you mind being interviewed?" In case of explicit denial ("I am not Roma, why should you interview me?") the interview was cancelled. Participation was interpreted as the household member's implicit endorsement of belonging to the universe under study.

In some cases (particularly in big cities and capitals) a numerically large group of Roma still constitutes a proportionally low share in the total. In such cases, the sample model followed the administrative subdivisions: Usually the capital municipality is divided into smaller municipalities and/or lower levels of self-government. These smaller units were chosen as the sampling units. Such cases were also corrected typologically introducing additional sampling points.

Majority boosters

Apart from Roma respondents, **majority booster** samples were constructed using similar procedures (representative for the majority population living in settlements with Roma population 'average and above', not for the total majority in a country). The idea was to have a sample for the majority living in close proximity to Roma populations and facing similar socio-economic challenges often associated with regional disparities.

Applying majority boosters gave the survey a benchmark, allowing judgments as to the depth of poverty and vulnerability among Roma vs. non-Roma populations living in a similar socio-economic environment. This approach, despite all technical difficulties in sample design, enables distinguishing various vulnerability factors, in particular those that are related to minority status (and hence can be attributed to various forms of discrimination) from those due to regional disparities or depressed local economies (i.e. due to the fact that populations studied live in less developed territories).

In cases of municipalities with a high share of Roma not having substantive number of majority population for a majority booster (for example, in cases of isolated settlements or segregated neighbourhoods), the majority booster was based on the population from a typologically similar settlement in the same (or adjacent) district (administrative unit), residing in the nearest proximity to the surveyed Roma target population. The criterion for choosing an administrative unit/settlement was the closest one accessible by road connection.

It is important to bear in mind that the approach would not guarantee national representativeness for the majority population, and the surveyed universe of the majority in each country is actually composed of those who live in closer proximity to Roma populations.

The resulting (realized) samples for the countries are shown in the table:

Country	Realized samples					
	Majority		Roma		Total	
	Households	HH members	Households	HH members	Households	HH members
Bulgaria	500	1302	500	2176	1000	3478
Croatia	254	715	252	1252	506	1967
Czech Republic	311	762	760	2761	1071	3523
Hungary	400	1194	605	2955	1005	4149
Kosovo	354	2275	354	2223	708	4498
Macedonia	377	1399	379	1836	756	3235
Serbia & Montenegro (incl. Kosovo)	951	4245	952	4681	1903	8926
Montenegro	198	700	199	699	397	1399
Romania	601	1771	601	2905	1202	4676
Serbia	399	1270	399	1759	798	3029

The advantages and impediments of the adopted approach

A sample based on municipalities with an average and above share of Roma is not fully representative of the whole Roma population, but roughly covers about 85 percent of Roma in each country and provides a good basis for quantitative socio-economic indicators for Roma (quality of life, life expectancy, access to services, income, etc.). The resulting sample is also representative not just for segregated Roma but also for the majority of Roma.

The data acquired will be acceptably consistent with census information, since the data is based on relative numbers (structure and regional distribution) instead of absolute numbers of Roma population registered by the censuses. The data provides comprehensive snapshots of the regions with concentrated Roma population based on a clear approach to the questions: 'Which are these regions?' and 'How concentrated is the Roma population there?'

The approach gives some standardized criterion for majority booster selection. The majority boosters are based on populations in direct proximity to Roma (in the same municipality or region) despite all limitations of such a definition.

The major impediment of the adopted sampling model relates to municipalities with the share of Roma population below the national average: They fall out of the scope of the sample. They could be either concentrated in mini poverty pockets or are dispersed (presumably integrated with the majority). However, both groups are represented in the sample:

- In the first case (concentrated mini poverty pockets), because most of the 85 percent covered are living in similar poverty pockets (which were representatively sampled).
- In the second case (the dispersed and integrated group), because part of that 85 percent of Roma is functionally integrated (employed, maintaining contacts with the majority and institutions etc.) and thus typologically similar to dispersed (presumably integrated) Roma from the remaining 15 percent.

Those of the 15 percent who are 'dispersed and integrated' and identify themselves as Roma are typologically close to the integrated Roma from the 85 percent. Those who have been assimilated and do not identify themselves as Roma fall out of the scope of the research either because they do not meet the criterion of 'being Roma', whatever that means, or because they do not meet the vulnerability criterion.

Overall, the suggested approach is based on the assumption that existing demographic information on the size and structure of the Roma population can be analysed and compacted in a reliable enough picture: total and territorial distribution. This is quite difficult to achieve, and will inevitably be partly based on estimates and experts' assumptions, but is a prerequisite for any representative sampling procedure. All effort has to be made in this direction. An alternative is very large national samples in each country, ensuring a statistical minimum of Roma sub-samples.

Levels of comparability

The combination of two samples (Roma and majority) with the format of the survey instrument following the philosophy of an integrated household survey provides the unique opportunity for three levels of comparability:

- Between Roma and the local majority living in depressed areas
- Between Roma and the status of the average population of the country (reflected in national household and labour force surveys)
- Between majority populations living in depressed areas and the national averages.

In addition, applying common methodology in all countries covered by the survey allows for cross-country comparisons.

Given the major constraint—uncertainty of the absolute number of the Roma population (due to the unclear identification criteria)—the data (and all possible comparisons) have certain limitations. The survey does not provide the answer to questions like '**How many** Roma live in poverty?' or '**How many** Roma have completed secondary education?' It gives the answers to questions like '**What share** of Roma is living in poverty?' and '**What share** of Roma has completed secondary education?' Such answers are comprehensive enough for policy purposes because they outline the distance between various groups and provide clues to the reasons why disparities exist. However, they may be inadequate for resource allocation (usually based on headcount) until some national-level consensus is reached on the number of people referred to as 'Roma'. This issue goes beyond the scope of the current survey.

Fieldwork and partnerships

As a specific and unique minority group, the Roma in some countries show distrust towards other ethnic groups. In order to overcome the possible distrust of pollsters, Roma interviewers were used for fieldwork where possible (in countries where sufficient numbers of trained Roma were available). In other cases, Roma intermediaries were used (following the pattern of 'Roma assistant teachers'). These were either Roma 'assistant interviewers' (that is, a Roma representative accompanying the experienced pollster) or local social workers or Roma NGO representatives. In all cases, the intermediaries were trained (on the contents of the questionnaire, on general rules and procedures of an interview etc.) before beginning the fieldwork. The general rule, however, was to approach the communities carefully, with respect and avoiding any suspicion about the purpose of the data collection.

The Council of Europe – as a part of its 'Roma under the Stability Pact' joint project with the European Commission – expressed a deep interest in contributing financially to this survey, in particular for costs related to 'assistant interviewers' or other intermediaries, in view of updating with statistics its own study on Roma Access to Employment in Southeastern Europe.

The survey was executed by the following agencies:

- For countries of Southeastern Europe: by each GALLUP International affiliated agency, coordinated by the GALLUP International regional office that managed the execution of the whole survey
- For the Czech Republic: by FOCUS Agency
- For Hungary: by TARKI.

After the fieldwork was completed, a field control was run on 10 to 15 percent of the sample, depending on the country. All completed questionnaires were subject to quality control for proper administration and, where it was deemed necessary, some interviews were discarded and the respective target sampling points were re-visited. For countries of Southeastern Europe, data entry was conducted locally by each GALLUP International affiliated agency. The GALLUP International regional office collected and assembled the final regional data set. For the Czech Republic and Hungary, data entry and control were conducted by FOCUS and TARKI respectively.

From the outset, all agencies involved worked in coordination under the methodological and conceptual guidance of the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre. The methodology of the survey, sampling and fieldwork were broadly discussed with colleagues from the World Bank and members of the Data Experts Group. Three consultants (Gabor Kezdy, Valerie Evans and Dragana Radevic) were particularly instrumental in the final design of the methodology and sampling models.

The nature and purpose of this publication

The data generated within the project are extremely rich and multidimensional. Their analyses and interpretation are still forthcoming. The primary purpose of this publication is to give 'food for thought' by presenting the major socio-economic indicators of the Roma population in the Decade of Roma Inclusion countries. The data are presented in graphs with the value of every indicator. The accompanying notes are intended to provide additional information on the indicators and explain how they were calculated – but not to interpret the messages of the data. This is why the accompanying notes are the same for all countries.

One final note on comparability. The values of the indicators for the Roma are presented in relation to the values for the majorities living in close proximity to the Roma. These are not national averages. The 'majorities in close proximity' tend to be in a disadvantaged position as well (for example, because they live in economically depressed areas). This is why the difference between Roma and national-level indicators may be higher than reflected in the graphs. This assumption can be checked by analyzing the data against the national averages of similar indicators reflected in integrated household surveys and/or labour force surveys—something that will be the subject of further analysis.

*Andrey Ivanov, PhD
Project coordinator
Bratislava, January 2005*

Bulgaria

According to the 2001 census, Bulgaria has 370,908 Roma. Social scientists believe that some additional 350,000 people share social characteristics that are close to those of the Roma community, but do not identify themselves as Roma. These people identify themselves as Turks, Bulgarians, and a small percent as Romanians. However, the ethnic communities with which they identify do not accept them as part of the same group.

Roma divide themselves into five big groups, and each group has a number of sub-groups—there are more than 95 subgroups in Bulgaria. All of the cultural differences inherent in such a plethora of groups hamper the ability of the Roma to unite and strengthen their political representation. Regarding religious affiliation, Roma belong to the Orthodox Church and some Evangelic churches, while some Roma are Muslim.

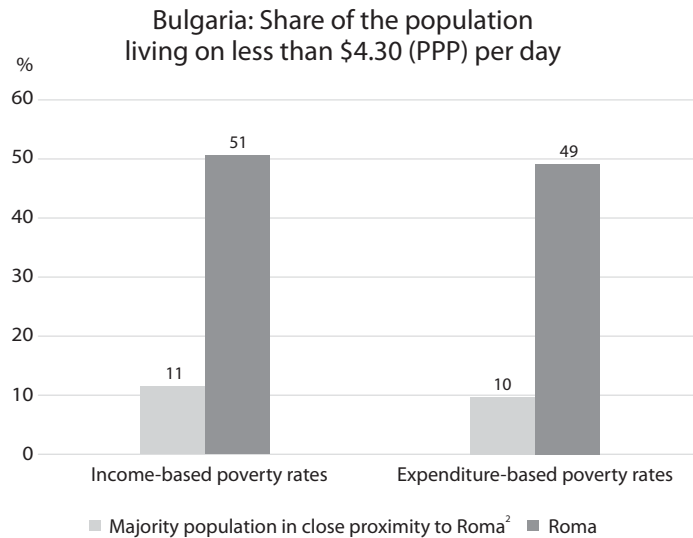
Almost half of the Roma live in villages. They do not own land nor do they have jobs. Others live in town ghettos, a great part of which are outside town-development schemes. Over the past 15 years of transition to democracy and a market economy, the Roma have reached the social bottom; there they have developed a tendency to concentrate and withdraw from society. Illiteracy among adult Roma has doubled (the average level is now 20 percent). A great part of the community faces permanent unemployment (varying between 60 and 80 percent). The percentage of Roma alienated by society and rejected by their peers has increased three times.

Poverty and poor psychological and physical health erode the traditional family structure. Currently, substantial numbers of unregistered marriages and divorces exist and children are the victims. Their rights, following the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are violated on a daily basis. Infant mortality is two times higher than the average for children from birth to 12 months. Social scientists define the events in the Roma community as the emergence of an *underclass* leading to corresponding social tensions.

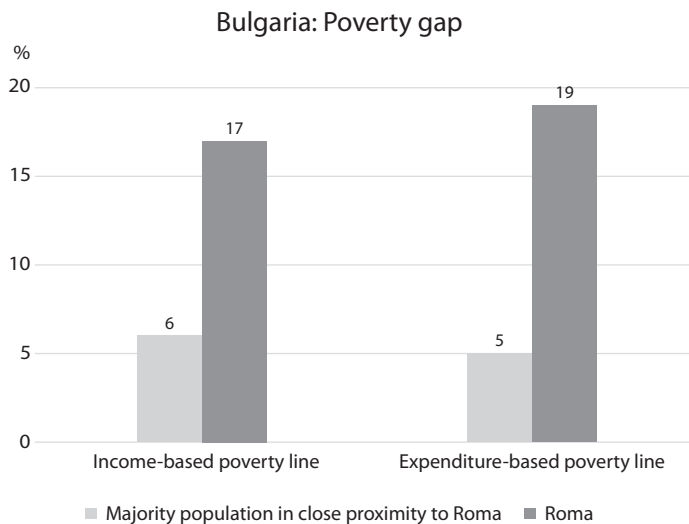
Positive trends: For ten years, Bulgarian national statistics have recorded an 11.5 percent increase in the Roma population. This is not due to natural growth but to Roma emancipation. Some of them have relinquished their preferred identity and declared with new self-confidence that they belong to the Roma culture. Although the general level of illiteracy has increased, the number of young Roma (between 20 and 35 years old) who study or have already finished their secondary and higher education, who speak at least one European language and who have computer literacy has also increased—thanks to NGO scholarships and programmes and to sponsors like George Soros. These educated people are the future Roma elite, who have reached the average level of the young Bulgarian generation and who are quite competitive on the labour market.

There is a strong network of Roma NGOs and Roma activists in Bulgaria, as well as national civil associations that support the Roma and the state policies for Roma integration. The good show of the Roma in local elections means future opportunities for an adequate, equal participation in political and social life. There is an open and intensive social debate in Bulgaria on the negative attitudes of all people towards the Roma, on tolerance and on Roma inclusion. For the first time in centuries, Bulgarian society (the other minorities included) assumes that the Roma people are part of the nation, prepared to accept the coming policies that foster their integration.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).



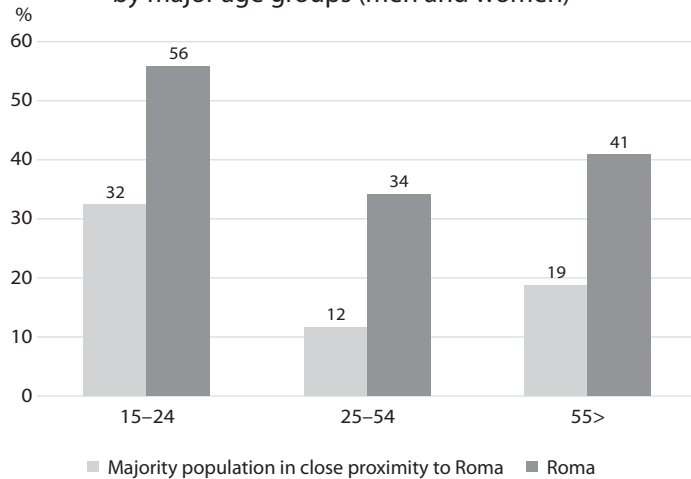
The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

¹ For an explanation of PPP (purchasing power parity) please see the Glossary.

² Majority does NOT refer to the majority population representative for the whole country but rather it is a sample of the majority living in close proximity to Roma (see sections “General principles of the sample design” and “Majority boosters” in the “Introduction” chapter)

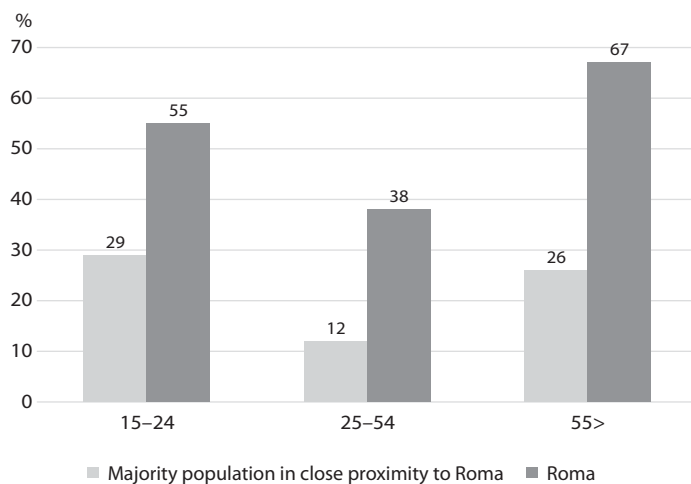
Unemployment

Bulgaria: Unemployment rate by major age groups (men and women)

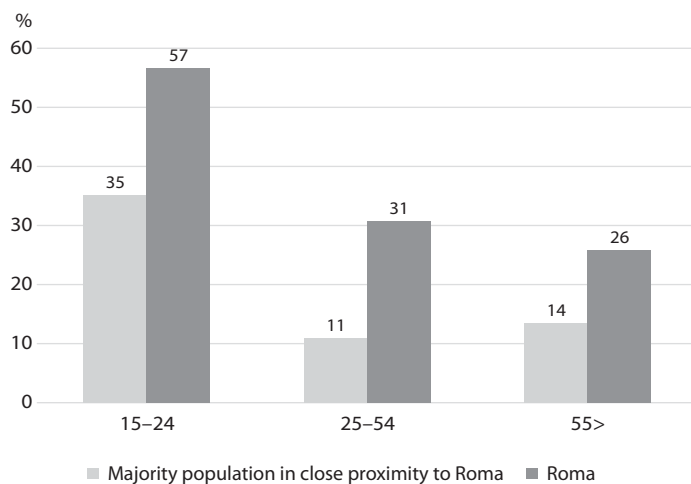


The graphs in this section illustrate the unemployed as a share of the labour force. Following the definition applied in Labour Force Surveys "Labour force" is defined as the working-age population (aged 15 and above) excluding people who are retired, in school and/or involved with housekeeping.

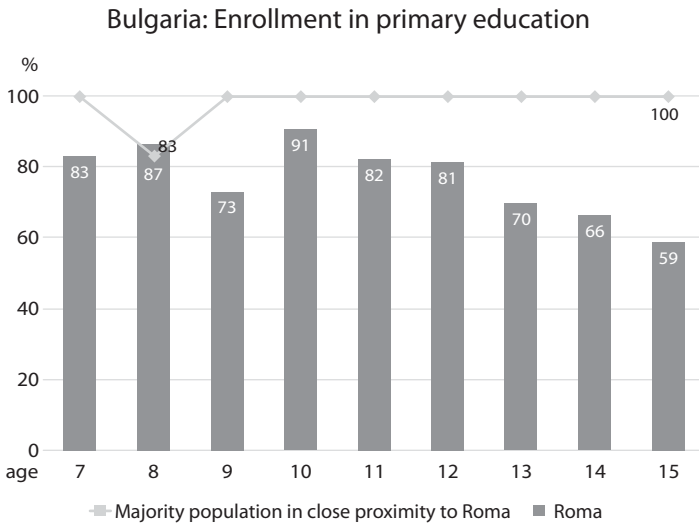
Bulgaria: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)



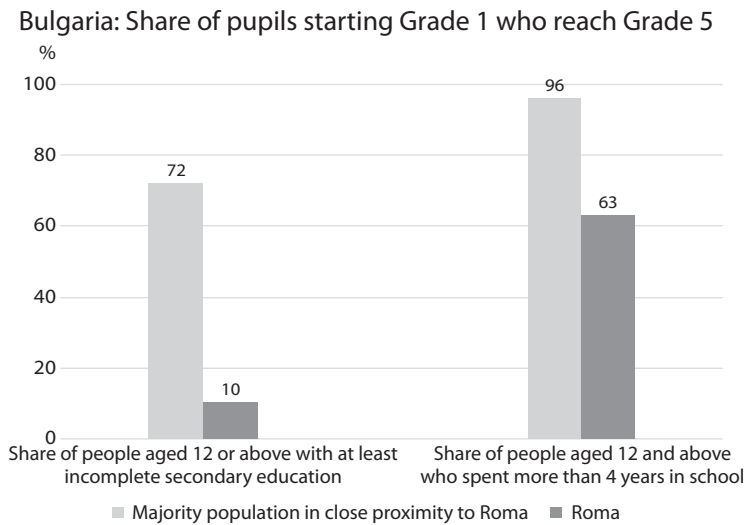
Bulgaria: Unemployment rate by major age groups (men)



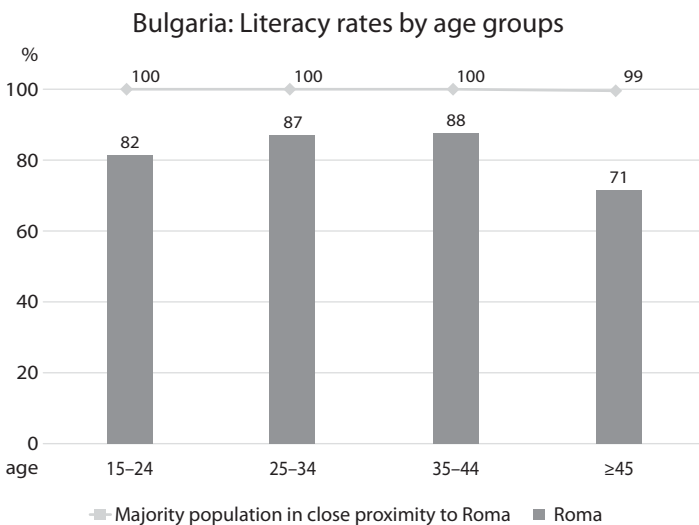
Education



The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).



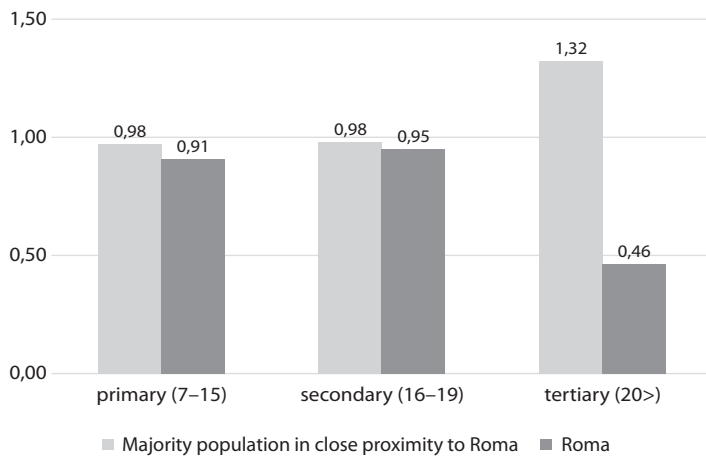
The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write?”

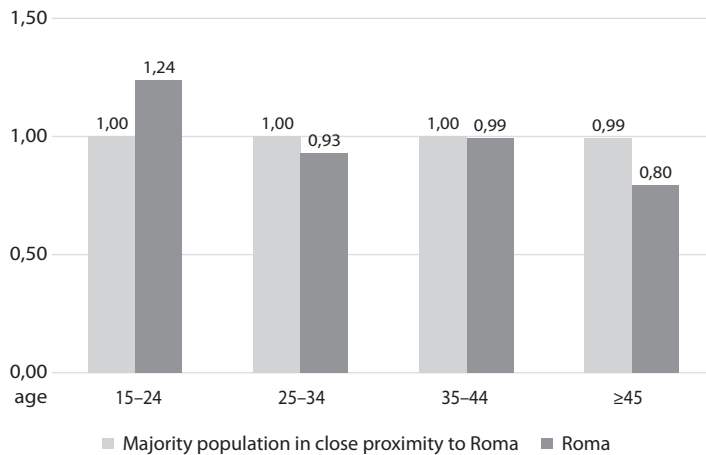
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Bulgaria: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7-15 years old), secondary (16-19) and tertiary (above 20).

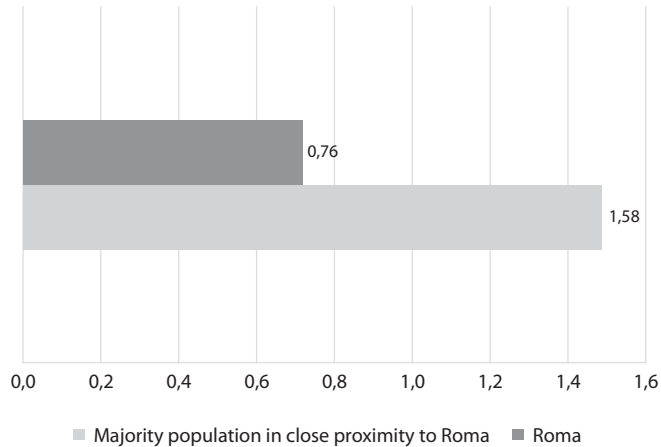
Bulgaria: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



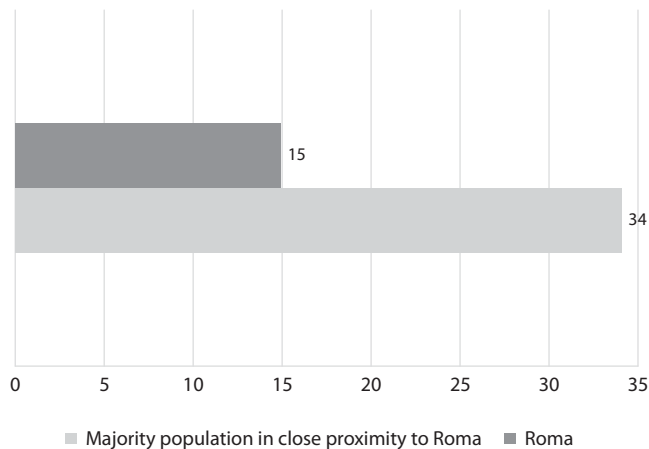
The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

Housing and living conditions

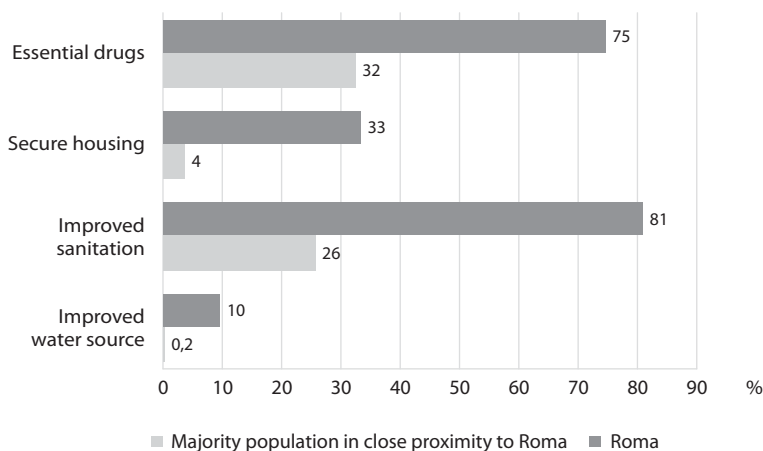
Bulgaria: Rooms per household member



Bulgaria: Square meters per household member



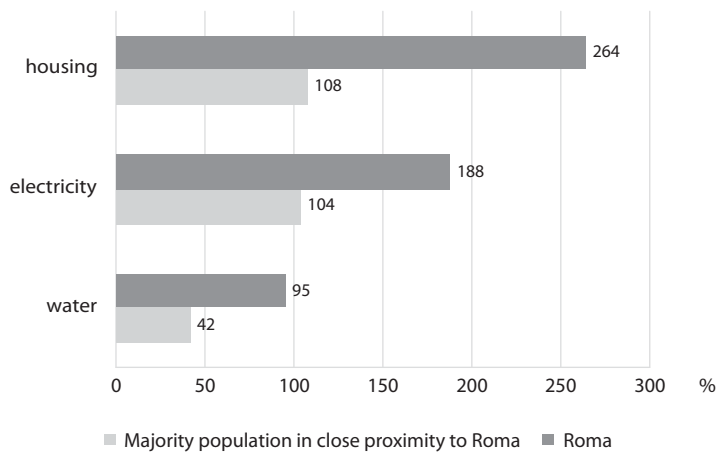
Bulgaria: Shares of the population not having access to:



The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question "How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?" The second one is based on "How many square meters is your current dwelling?" Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

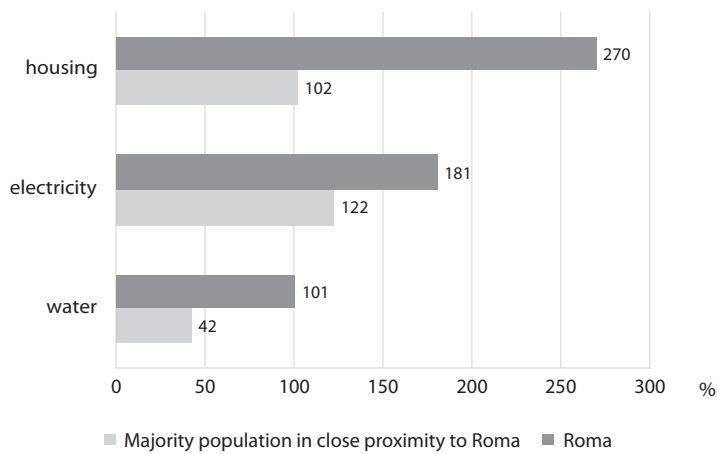
The "Essential drugs" section of the graph shows the share of households responding "Yes" to the question "Were there any periods in the past 12 months when your household could not afford to purchase medicines prescribed to/ needed by a member of your household?" "Secure housing" shows the share of those living in "ruined houses" or "slums". "Improved sanitation" shows the share of households not having a toilet or bathroom inside the house. "Improved water source" shows the share of the population living in households not having piped water inside the dwelling or in the garden/yard.

Bulgaria: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

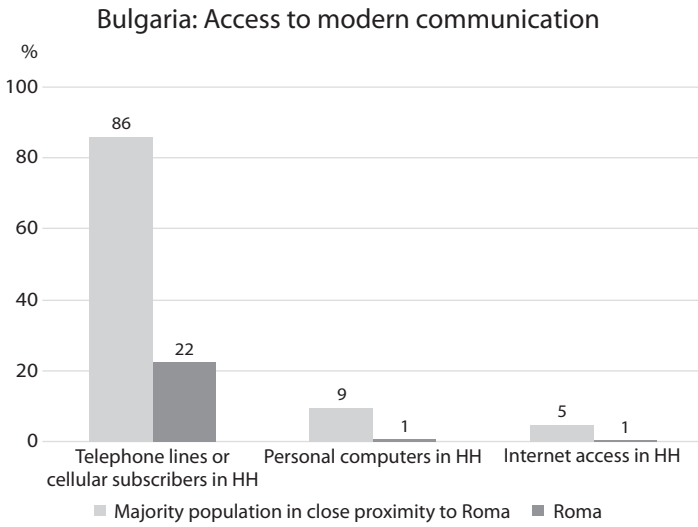


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Bulgaria: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Croatia

The Roma in Croatia are recognized as a national minority, which, according to the 2001 census, makes up 0.21 percent of the population; they number 9,463. However, according to estimates, between 30,000 and 40,000, a significantly larger number of Roma, actually live in the Republic of Croatia. The difference between the determined and the estimated number of Roma is, to a large degree, the consequence of the decision by the Roma themselves to declare themselves during the census as members of some other nationality, and not as Roma.

The majority of Roma live in the County of Međimurje and in the City of Zagreb. According to the results of research from 1988, 51 percent of the Roma in Croatia are indigenous, 17 percent have moved within Croatia, while others are newcomers. Immigration by the Roma from other parts of the former Yugoslavia, especially from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, has been very intensive during the last ten years.

Research shows that in Croatia, the majority of Roma families speak the Romany language (78.9 percent) or dialects of the Romany language (42.4 percent speak romani chiba and 36.5 percent speak ljimba d bjaš). Eleven percent speaks Albanian, while only six percent of Roma families speak the Croatian language. Four percent said the language of their everyday communication is Romanian.

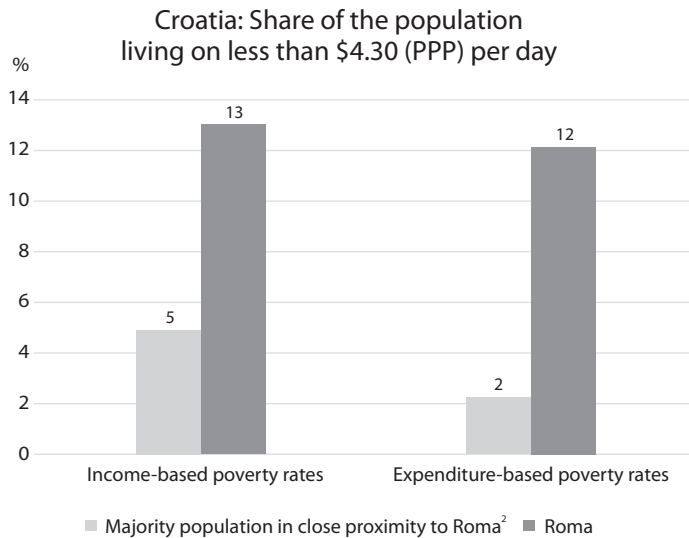
The Roma identify themselves with different religions. According to the results of the survey, 45.5 percent of Roma in Croatia declared themselves Muslims, 31.1 percent Catholics, 16.9 percent Orthodox, and within the "Other" category several Jehovah's Witnesses were registered.

There are about 50 registered Roma associations and three Roma umbrella associations. At the last elections for councils for national minorities, 22 Roma councils and four Roma representatives were elected in counties, cities and municipalities where Roma live. One Roma is a member of the Council for National Minorities at the state level.

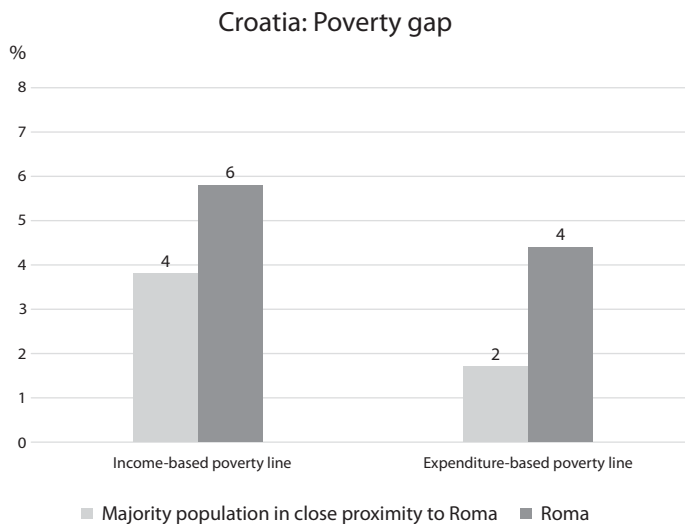
Equality is guaranteed to members of all national minorities in the Republic of Croatia, and freedom, equal rights, national equality and gender equality, social justice and respect for human rights are among the highest values of the constitutional order (Articles 3 and 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, hereinafter "The Constitution"). Article 14 of the Constitution prescribes that 'Everyone in the Republic of Croatia shall enjoy rights and freedoms, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other belief, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other characteristics. All shall be equal before the law'. The Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities and the system of legislation in the Republic of Croatia, which protects human rights and rights of national minorities, are based on these constitutional guidelines.

In an attempt to undertake certain measures to improve the living conditions of the Roma national minority and to include them in the social and public life, in parallel with the implementation of the National Programme for Roma that was adopted in 2003, the Republic of Croatia declared that it was prepared to join several other European countries and participate in the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

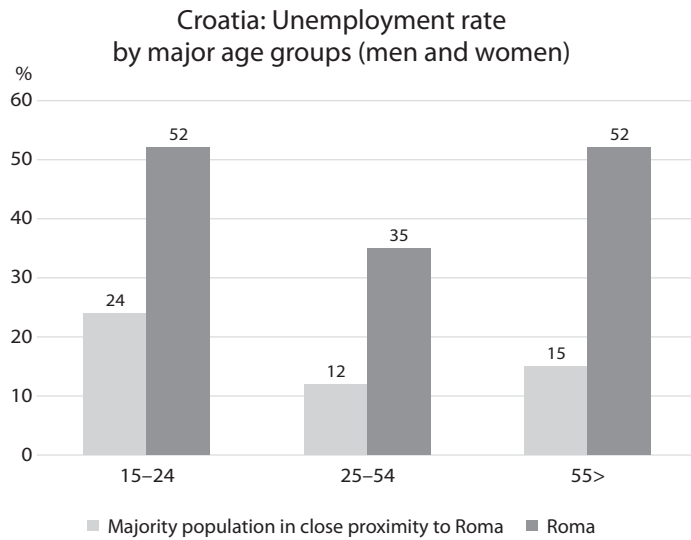


The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

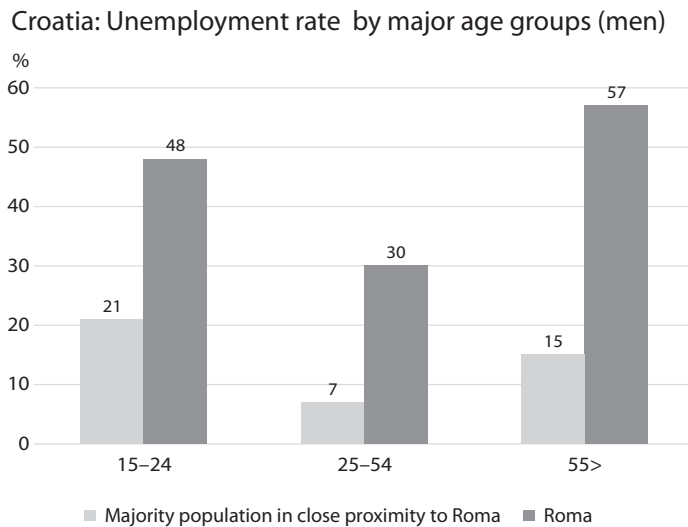
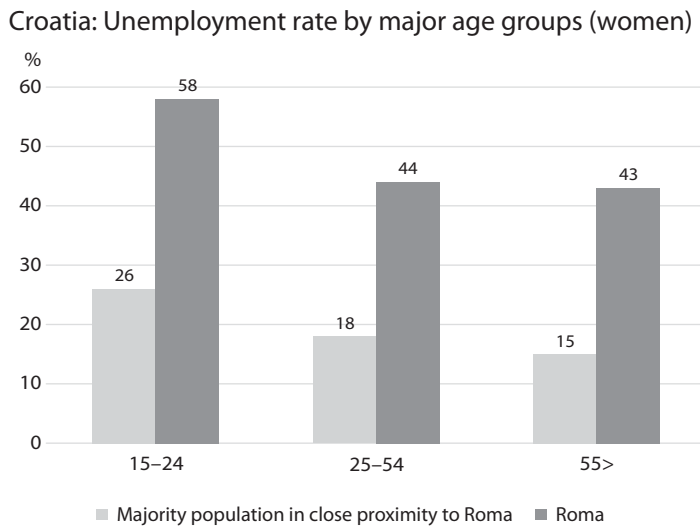
¹ For an explanation of PPP (purchasing power parity) please see the Glossary.

² Majority does NOT refer to the majority population representative for the whole country but rather it is a sample of the majority living in close proximity to Roma (see sections “General principles of the sample design” and “Majority boosters” in the “Introduction” chapter)

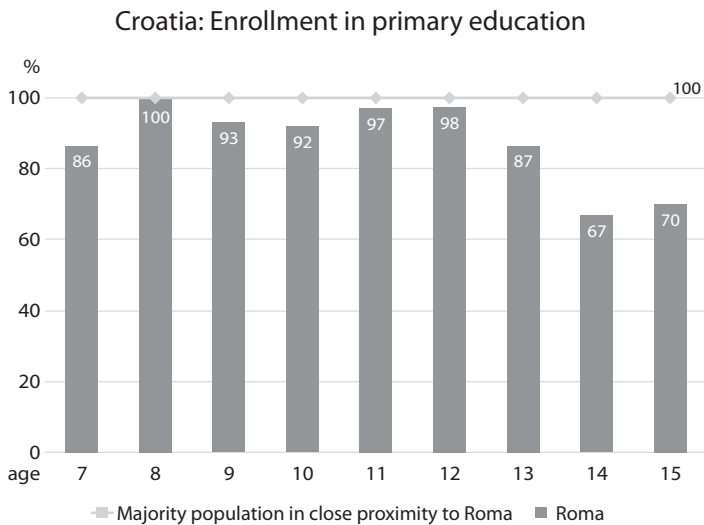
Unemployment



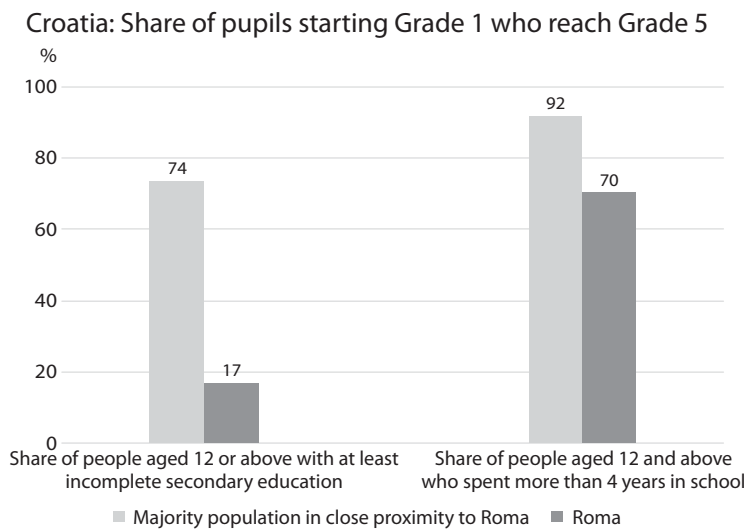
The graphs in this section illustrate the unemployed as a share of the labour force. Following the definition applied in Labour Force Surveys “Labour force” is defined as the working-age population (aged 15 and above) excluding people who are retired, in school and/or involved with housekeeping.



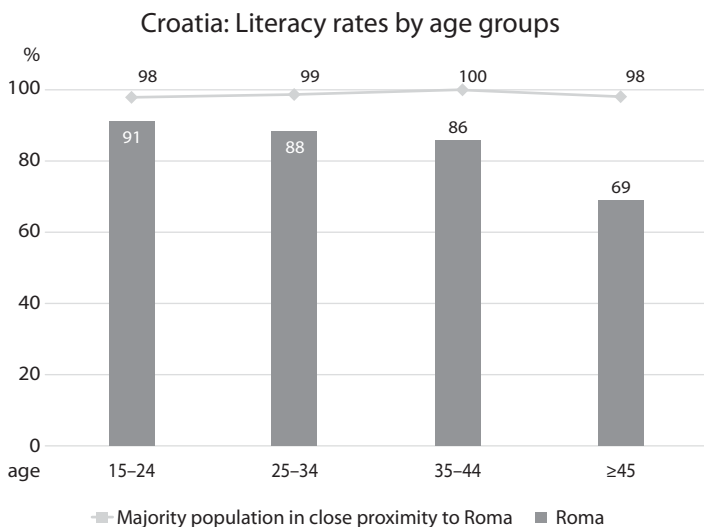
Education



The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).



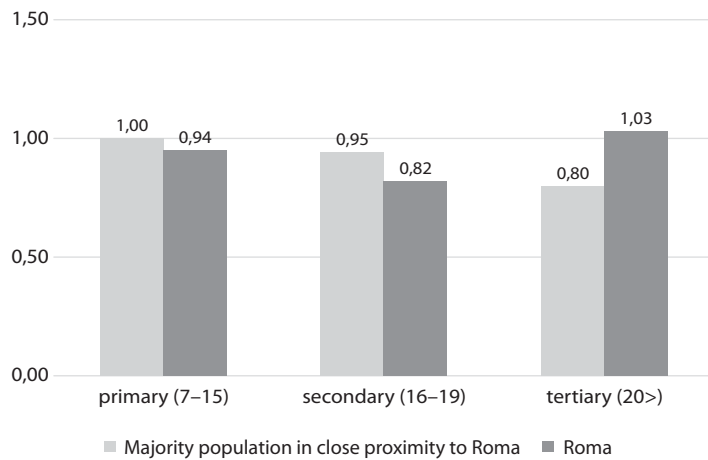
The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write?”

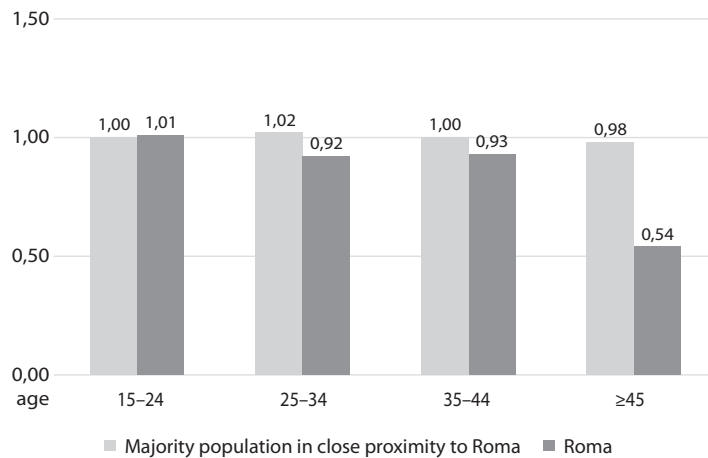
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Croatia: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7-15 years old), secondary (16-19) and tertiary (above 20).

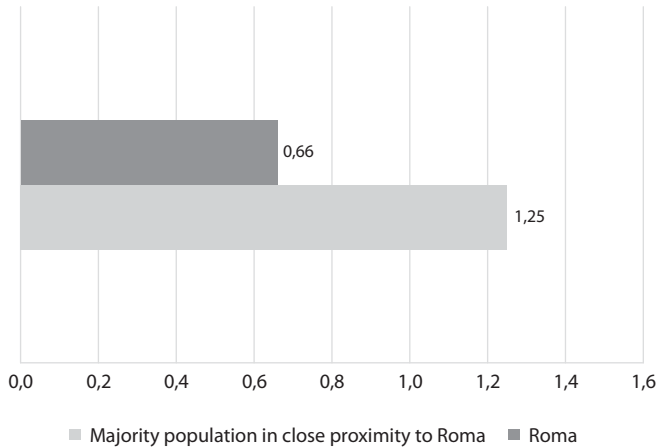
Croatia: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



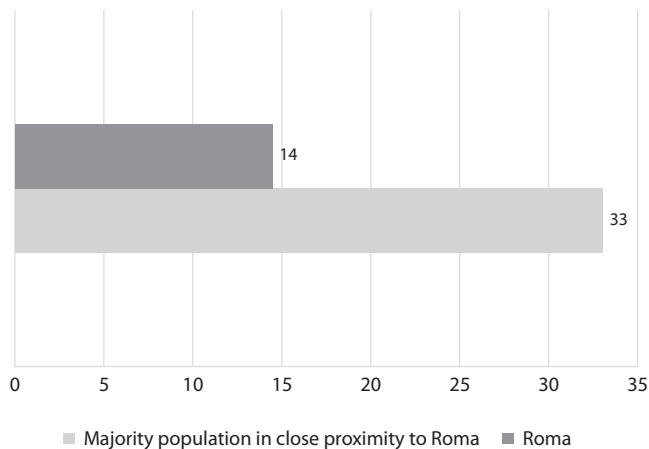
The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

Housing and living conditions

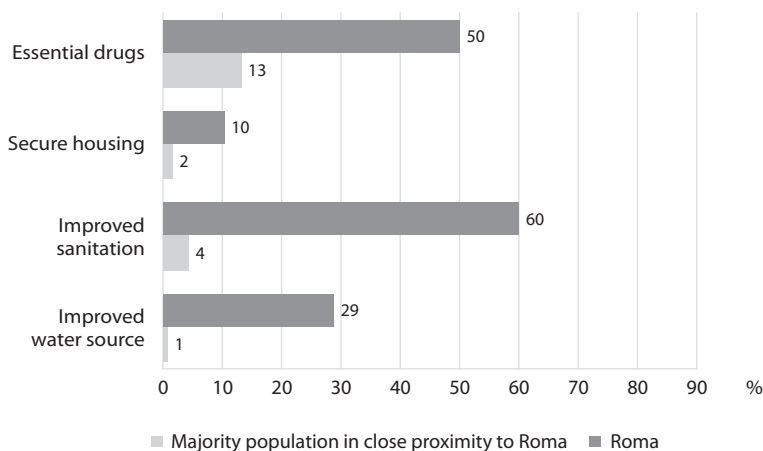
Croatia: Rooms per household member



Croatia: Square meters per household member



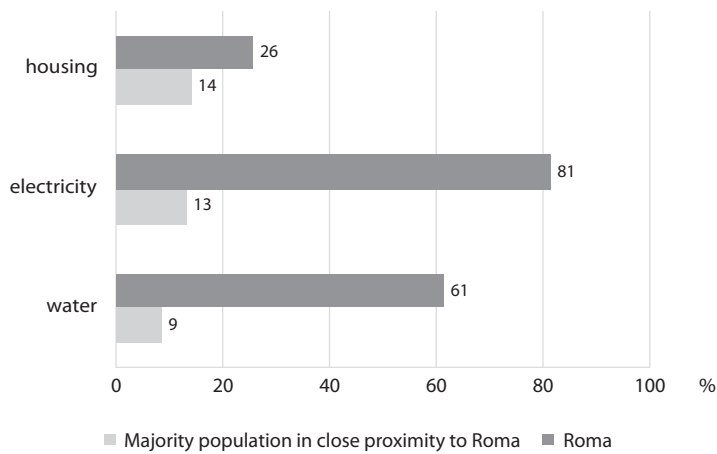
Croatia: Shares of the population not having access to:



The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question "How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?" The second one is based on "How many square meters is your current dwelling?" Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

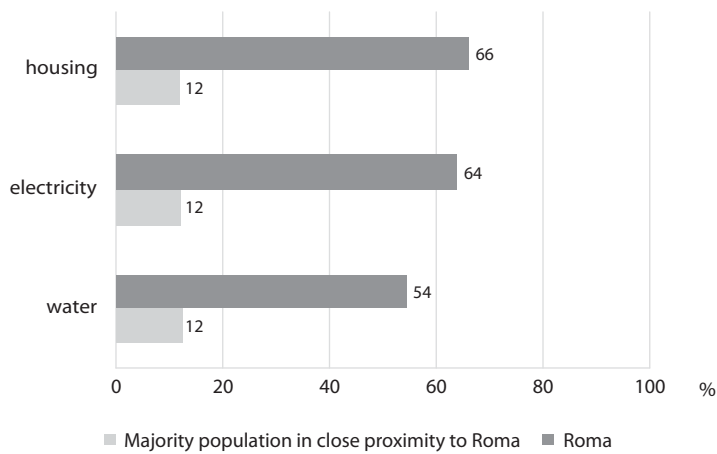
The "Essential drugs" section of the graph shows the share of households responding "Yes" to the question "Were there any periods in the past 12 months when your household could not afford to purchase medicines prescribed to/ needed by a member of your household?" "Secure housing" shows the share of those living in "ruined houses" or "slums". "Improved sanitation" shows the share of households not having a toilet or bathroom inside the house. "Improved water source" shows the share of the population living in households not having piped water inside the dwelling or in the garden/yard.

Croatia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

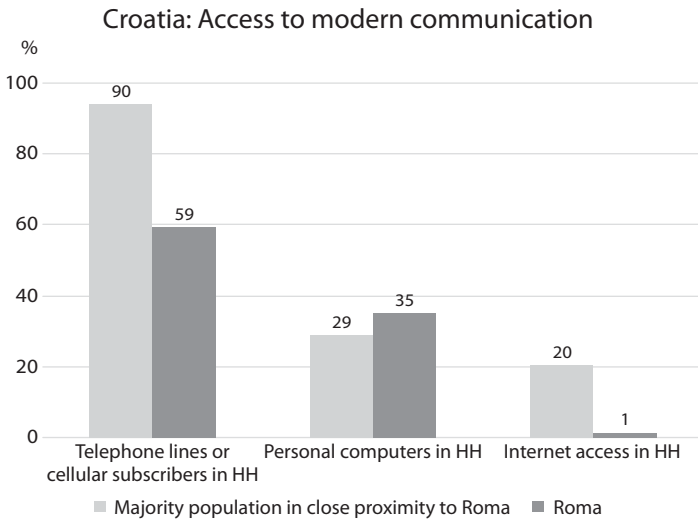


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Croatia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

The Czech Republic

According to official statistics (the 2001 census), Roma in the Czech Republic number 11,746 people or 0.1 percent of the population. Official statistics reported an abrupt drop in the size of the Roma population over the 10 years prior to 2001. During the 1991 census 32,903 people declared themselves as Roma. The real picture may be quite different, however. Experts on Roma issues estimate that the real number of Roma in the Czech Republic may be as high as 200,000 people, the majority of whom prefer to declare a different identity. The drop recorded by national statistics probably has two explanations. First, many Roma conceal their identity due to the negative stereotypes of the Roma and the social discomfort in which they live. Second, some Roma have emigrated from the Czech Republic (both to the West, and in the second half of the 1990s to Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and to Slovakia where some Czech Roma have extended families).

Roma in the Czech Republic belong to different groups: a great part of them are Slovak Roma (who came to the Czech Republic from Slovakia during the 1950s) and Hungarian Roma (who settled there a long time ago and continue to speak Hungarian). Ten percent are Walachia Roma, who were nomads until the middle of the 20th century but now have settled in the big cities. Actually, only a small number of households have remained from the real Czech, Moravian and Sinti Roma, because these people were killed during the Nazi genocide.

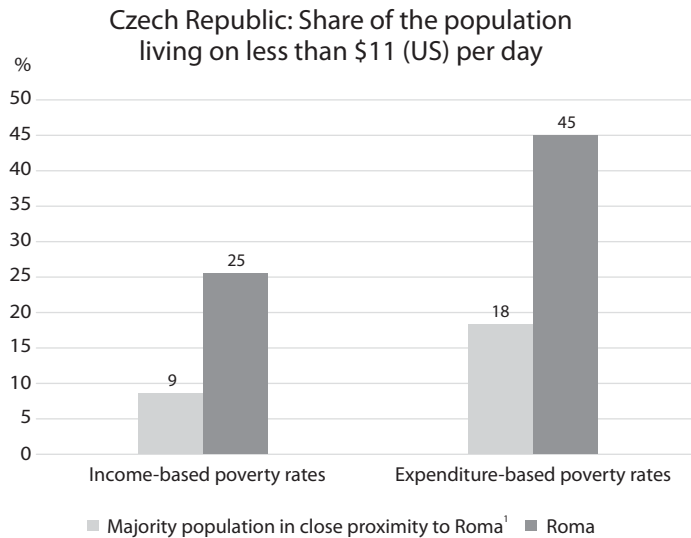
The Roma in the Czech Republic are richer than other Roma in Central and Eastern Europe. As a result they have a better social and health status. This is due partially to a rather comprehensive system of social benefits. However, it is also related to the general economic context: unemployment rates among Roma in the Czech Republic are the lowest (40–45 percent), and the percentage employed under legal labour contracts is the highest. The percentage of early marriages is the lowest here, and the priority problems of the Roma community are different from those in other countries: reducing family ties, restrictions in free mobility and limited access to social services.

While reporting these better indicators as compared with other countries, the Czech Republic remains the country with the lowest share of Roma with secondary and higher education, as well as with a high percentage of people with lower than primary education. It is not exactly clear, though, to what extent this reflects the overall status of the Roma in the Czech Republic—and to what extent this reflects the status only of those self-identifying as “Roma” (who generally face higher degrees of marginalization and hence score worse on education and other socio-economic parameters).

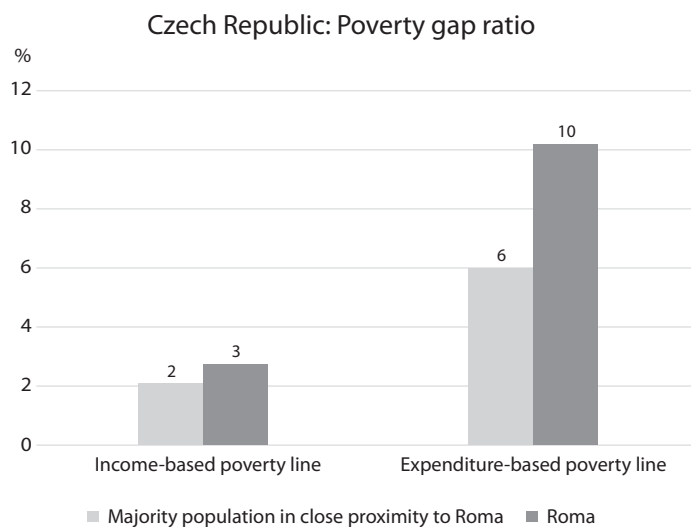
This vicious circle (marginalized status, leading to reduced educational opportunities, leading to deeper marginalization) has forced many Roma children in the Czech Republic into special schools more often than in other countries. However, this is more likely due to insufficient knowledge of the Czech language among Roma children entering the first class and to easier curricula in these schools than to poverty.

In terms of political participation, the Roma in the Czech Republic are the least active, and it is difficult to pull them together to take part in elections. Regarding social mediators, unlike the Roma in other countries, they trust NGOs more than Roma or national parties.

Poverty and unemployment



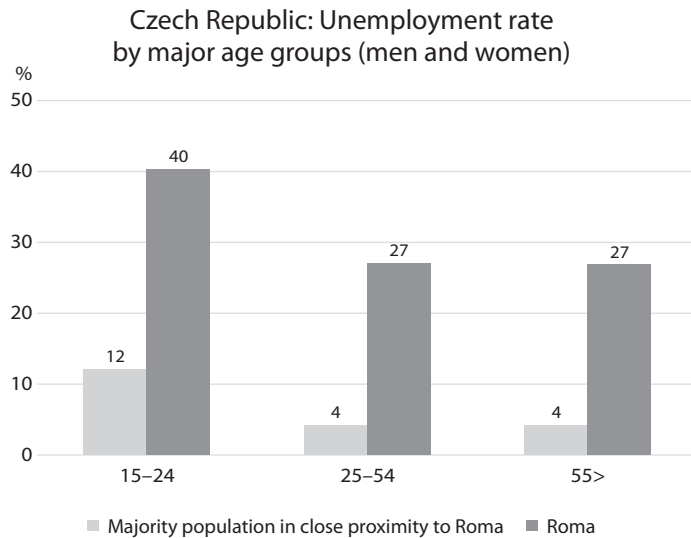
The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$11 (US) per day. Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).



The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

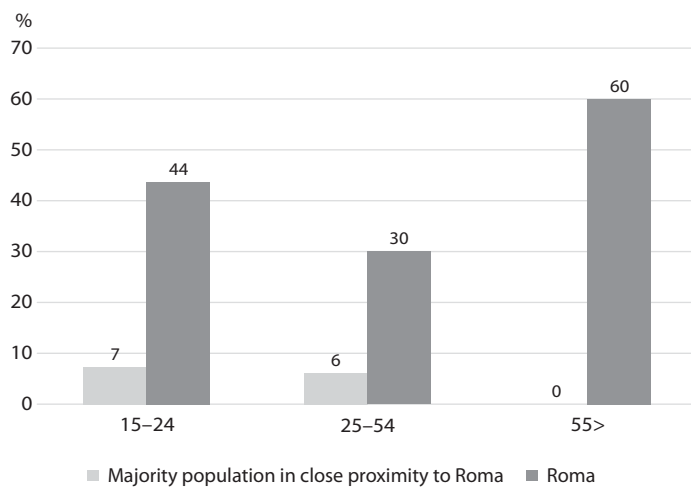
¹ Majority does NOT refer to the majority population representative for the whole country but rather it is a sample of the majority living in close proximity to Roma (see sections “General principles of the sample design” and “Majority boosters” in the “Introduction” chapter)

Unemployment

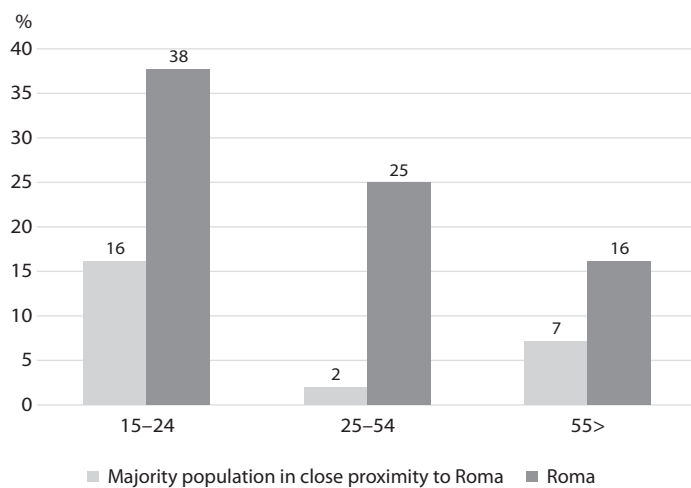


The graphs in this section illustrate the unemployed as a share of the labour force. Following the definition applied in Labour Force Surveys “Labour force” is defined as the working-age population (aged 15 and above) excluding people who are retired, in school and/or involved with housekeeping.

Czech Republic: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)

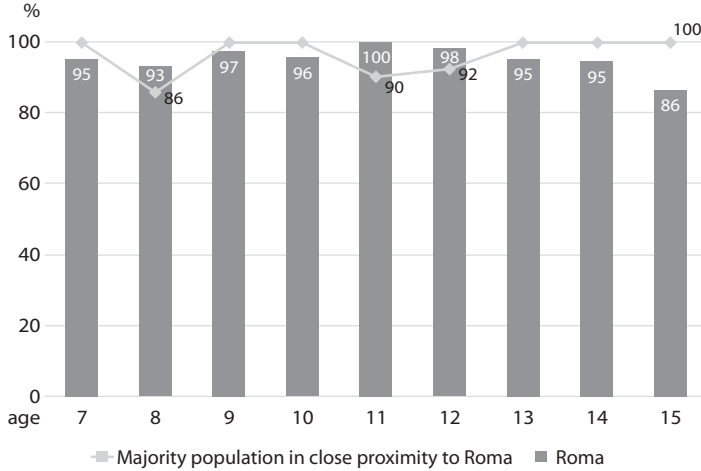


Czech Republic: Unemployment rate by major age groups (men)



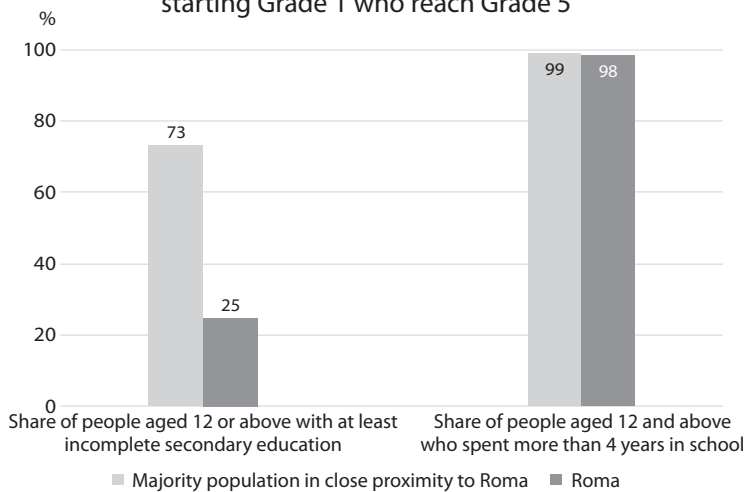
Education

Czech Republic: Enrollment in primary education



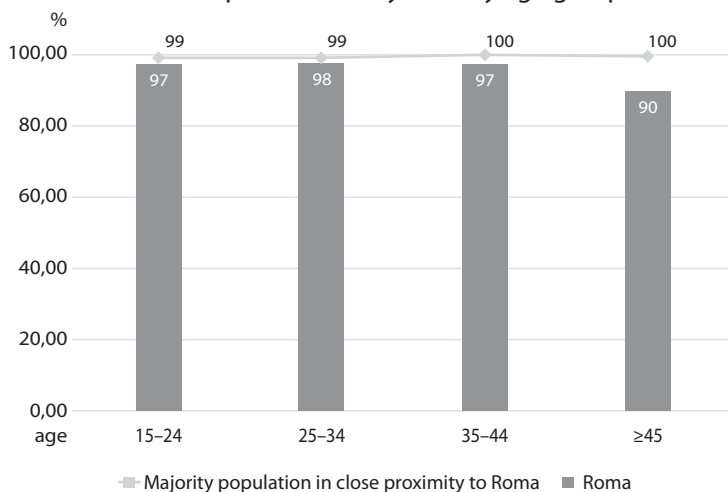
The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).

Czech Republic: Share of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5



The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).

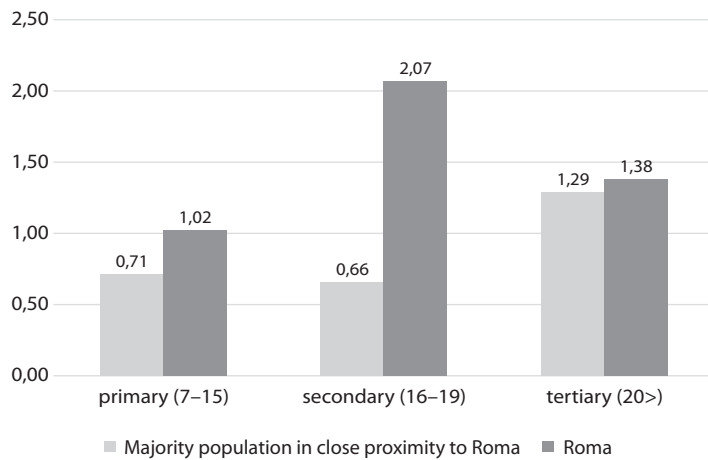
Czech Republic: Literacy rates by age groups



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write?”

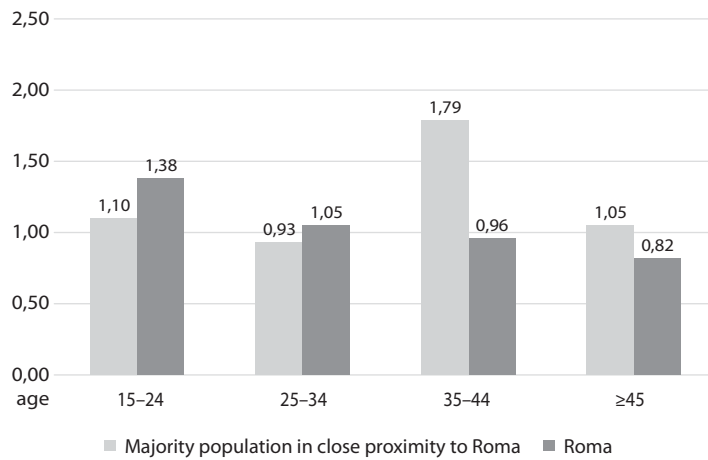
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Czech Republic: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7–15 years old), secondary (16–19) and tertiary (above 20).

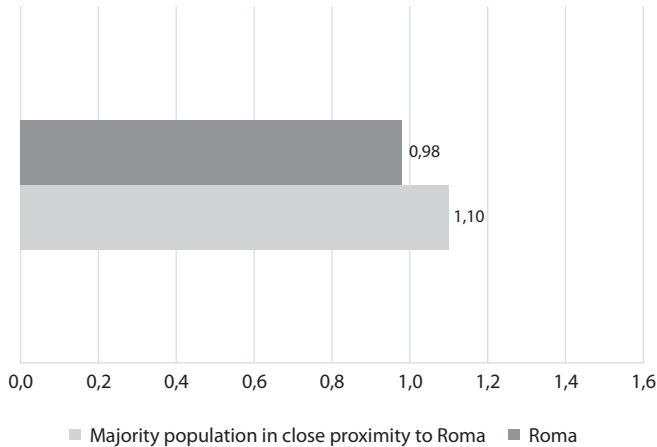
Czech Republic:
Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



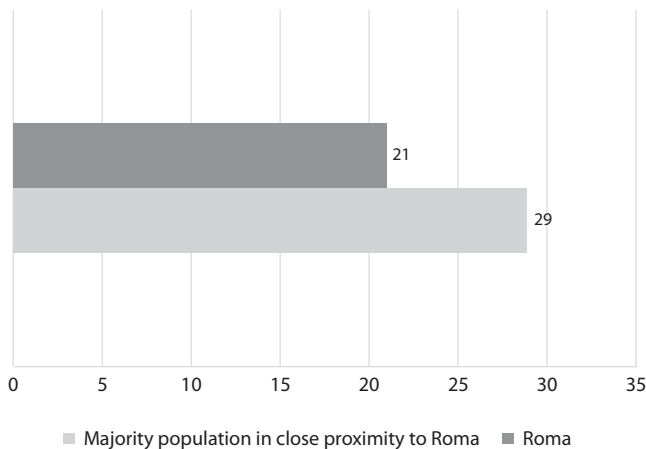
The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

Housing and living conditions

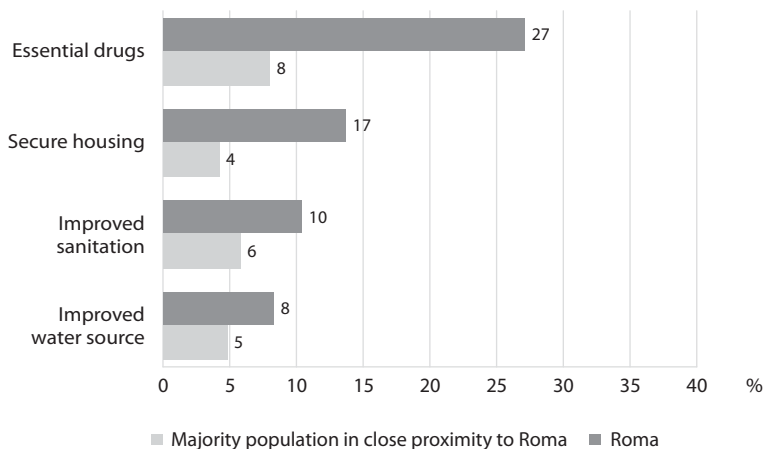
Czech Republic: Rooms per household member



Czech Republic: Square meters per household member



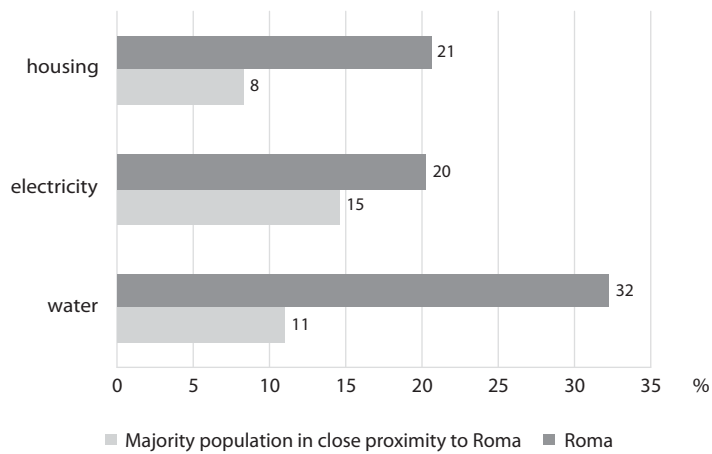
Czech Republic: Shares of the population not having access to:



The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question “How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?” The second one is based on “How many square meters is your current dwelling?” Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

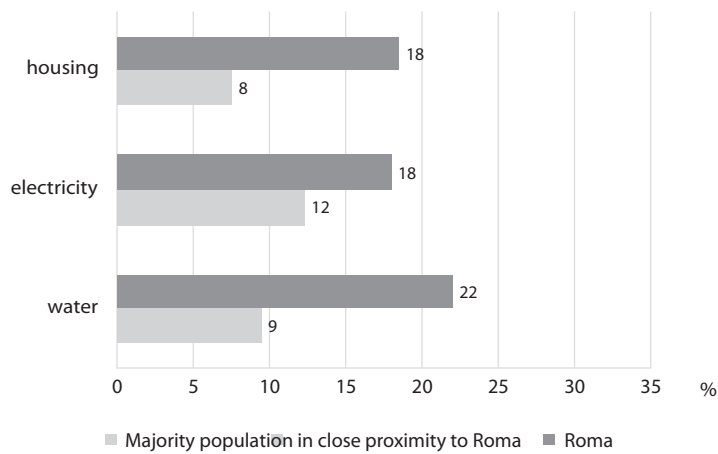
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Czech Republic: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

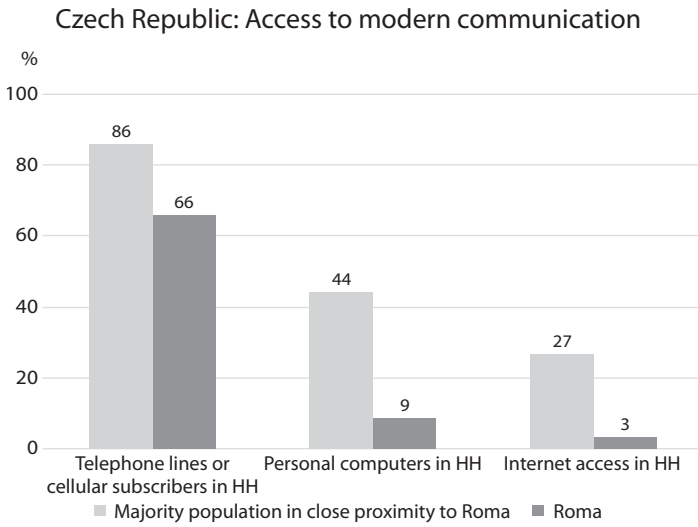


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Czech Republic: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Hungary

According to the latest census (2001) the Roma in Hungary number 189,984. As in the other European countries, national statistics count people based on how they identify themselves. Many Roma report that they are part of another social group. That is why experts claim that the actual number of Roma includes an additional 500,000 people.

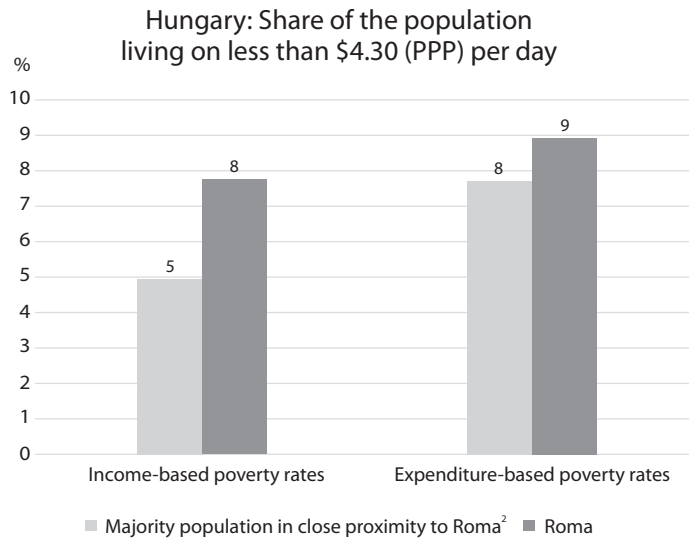
Hungarian Roma are divided into three basic subgroups. The largest group is the so-called Hungarian Roma (Rumungro, 70 percent), most of whom are assimilated and Hungarian-speaking. (A small part of this group speaks a Carpathian Romany dialect. They live in separate colonies on the outskirts of villages and practise agriculture, but given their small numbers it is difficult to generalize about their living conditions and life-style.) The second group is the Walachia Roma (20 percent), who moved from what is now Romania to Hungary in the 19th century. Until the middle of the 20th century, they were nomads practising different crafts, as well as music. The Walachia Roma maintain their own unique culture of ballads, songs and accompanying dances. The third group is the Beash who speak a mixture of Romany and an archaic version of Romanian. They were nomads, but more recently are just peripatetic, making a living through crafts related to wood. Mostly settled and currently practicing agriculture, they have assimilated with their rural neighbours.

Until the middle of the 1990s, Hungary experienced problems with Roma rejection and acts of racism manifested by some extreme rightist nationalistic organizations. The reason is not some unexpected emergence of prejudice. Simply, racism towards the Roma was suppressed during socialism; with the transition it became open. Some public opinion surveys as recent as 1997 show that one third of Hungarians support the idea of repatriating Roma to India, and three fourths of respondents claim the maximum high level of negative attitudes towards the Roma. But by the second half of the decade, many institutional mechanisms were already in place to offset such attitudes.

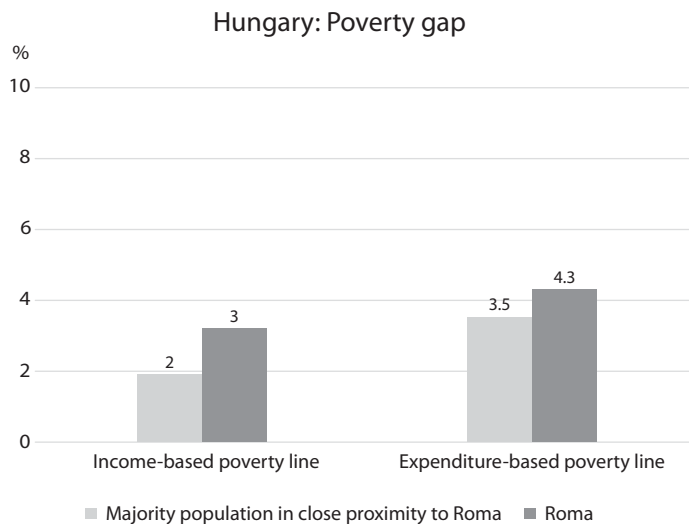
In Hungary, to some degree, the Romany language and traditional crafts (except for musicians) have been preserved. This can be attributed to the long history of assimilation launched during the Austro-Hungarian Empire over two centuries ago. Loss of traditional occupations however does not automatically mean increased employment opportunities: unemployment rates among the Roma are about 50–55 percent, and over 22 percent of Roma are dependent on the social assistance systems. Further, few Roma have secondary and higher education. Most have only primary and lower-than-primary education (slightly under 80 percent).

Nevertheless, the level of self-organization of Hungarian Roma is higher than in the other surveyed countries. Many Roma political parties participate in the local and parliamentary elections but (largely due to diversities among Roma groups) without a major Roma party. A very strong Act on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities is in force in Hungary, which could be considered as an example of positive discrimination (Roma are the only ethnic group which falls under the act on nationalities). To a large degree it gives Roma people in Hungary the same rights as other ethnic groups in Hungary. Hungarian Roma, as well as the other national groups, have equal rights in local elections according to the Act on Local Self-Government, and they have their representatives in the local authorities. The crucial issues here are not even equal rights (nominally guaranteed by the constitution in every country) but the possibility of establishing their own minority self-governments. Currently, there are some 1,000 Roma minority self-governments in Hungary (as a comparison, the total number of localities is 3,600, of which Roma live in 2,000). Moreover, there are hundreds of NGOs in Hungary that raise funds and implement programmes for Roma integration. The head-offices of several international organizations and initiatives are located in Hungary where they develop and monitor Roma programmes not only for Hungary but also for other Central and Eastern European countries.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

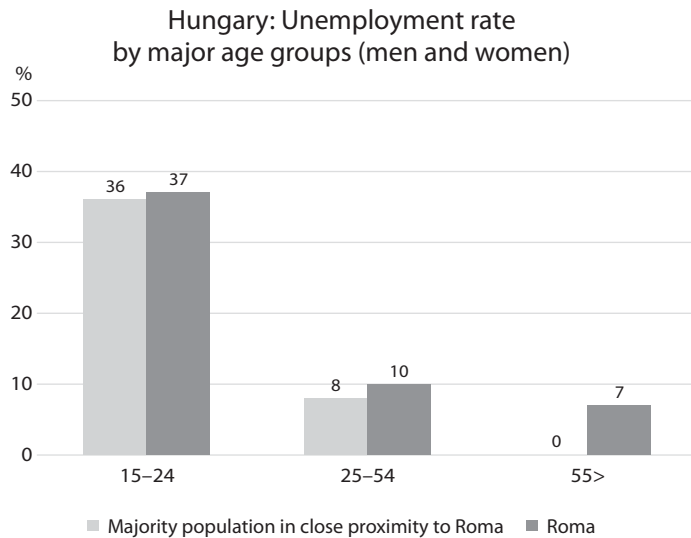


The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

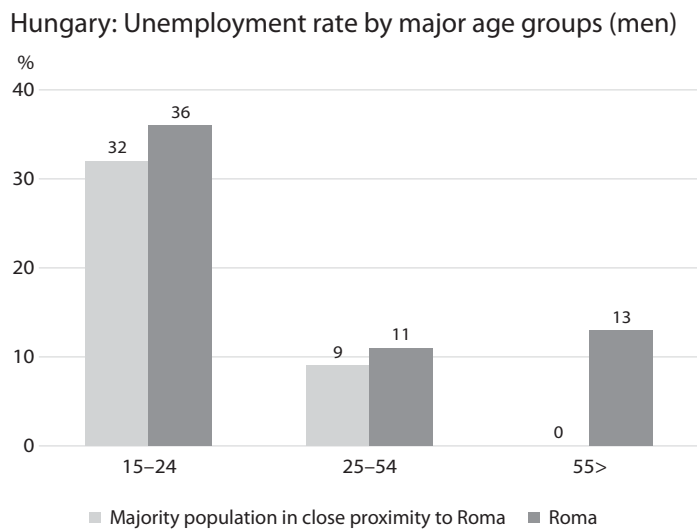
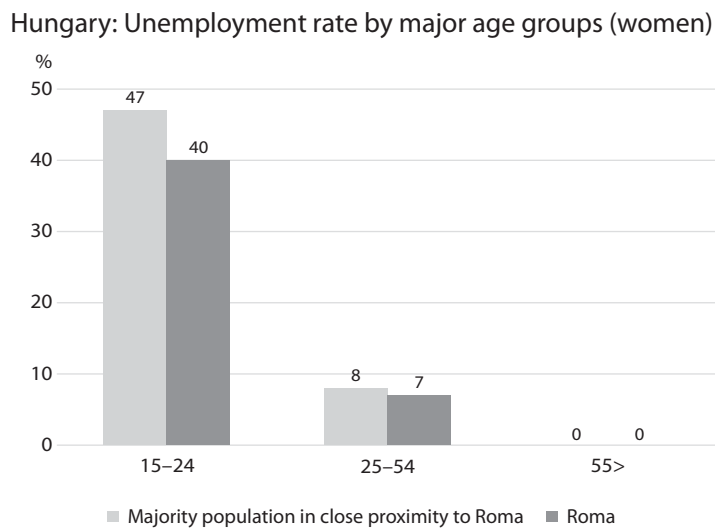
¹ For an explanation of PPP (purchasing power parity) please see the Glossary.

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Unemployment

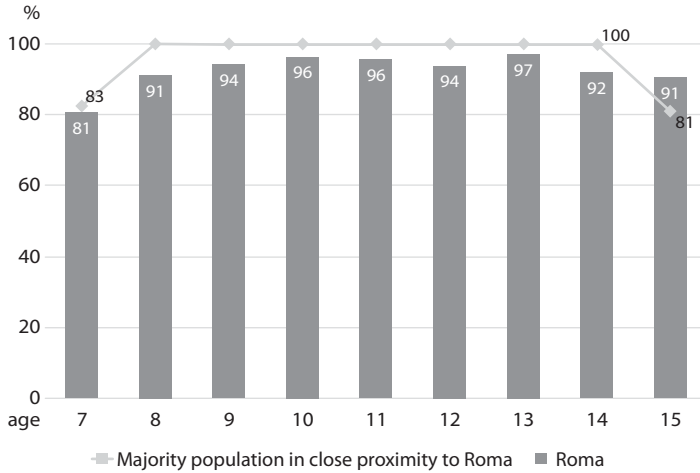


The graphs in this section illustrate the unemployed as a share of the labour force. Following the definition applied in Labour Force Surveys "Labour force" is defined as the working-age population (aged 15 and above) excluding people who are retired, in school and/or involved with housekeeping.



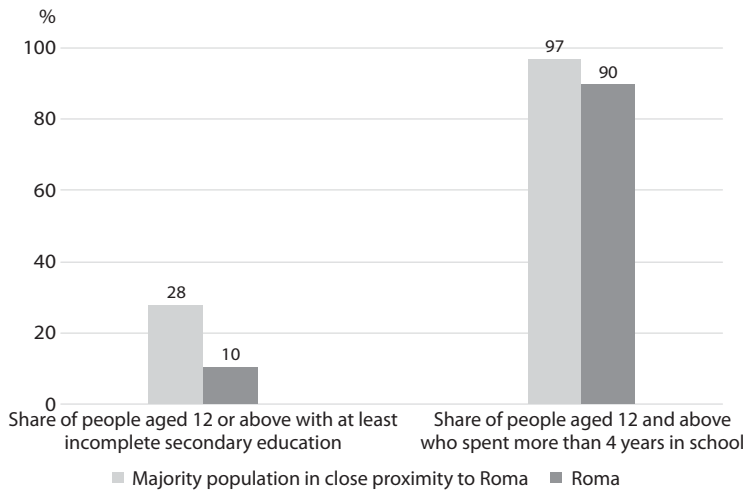
Education

Hungary: Enrollment in primary education



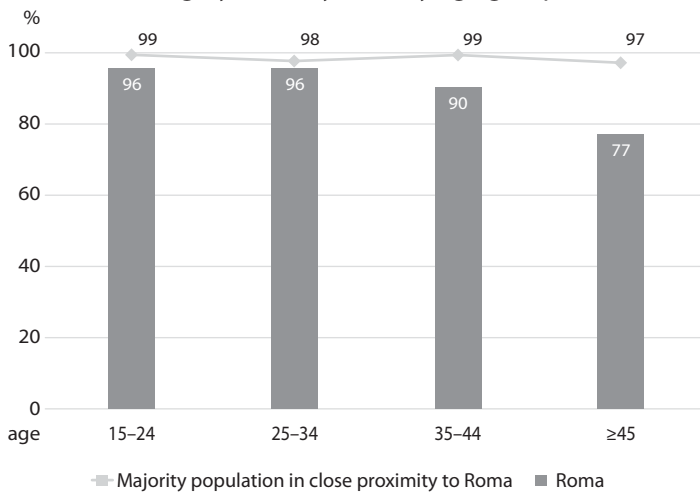
The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).

Hungary: Share of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5



The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).

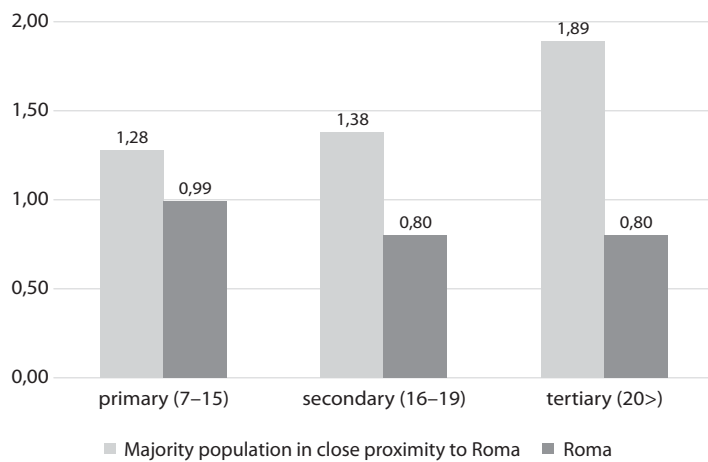
Hungary: Literacy rates by age groups



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write?”

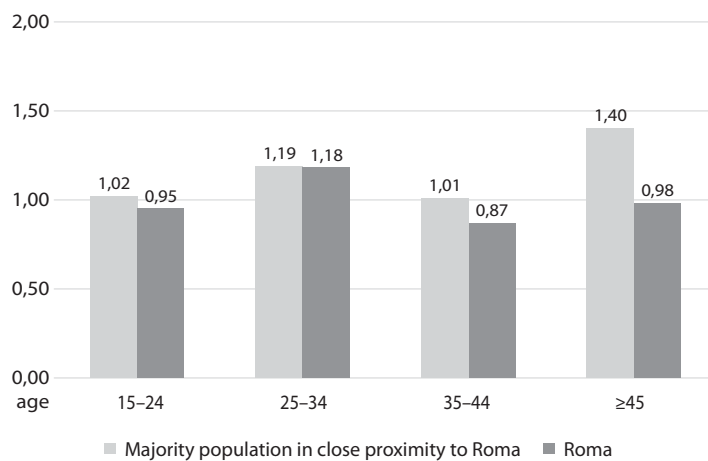
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Hungary: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7-15 years old), secondary (16-19) and tertiary (above 20).

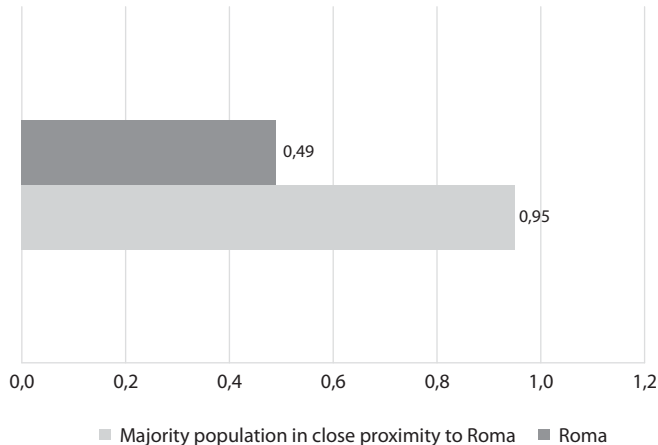
Hungary: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



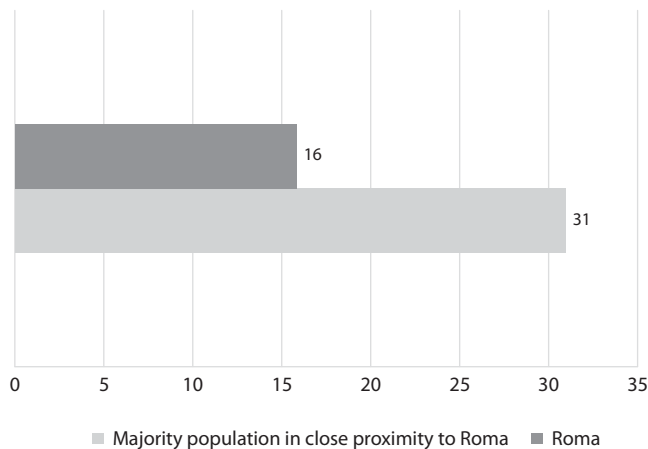
The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

Housing and living conditions

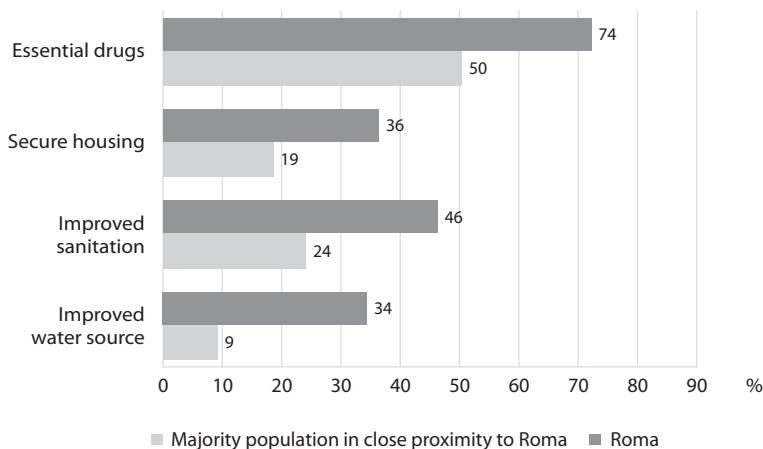
Hungary: Rooms per household member



Hungary: Square meters per household member



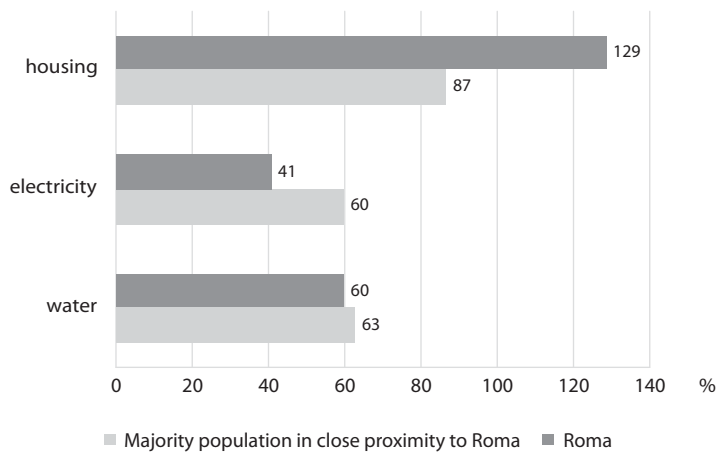
Hungary: Shares of the population not having access to:



The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question "How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?" The second one is based on "How many square meters is your current dwelling?" Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

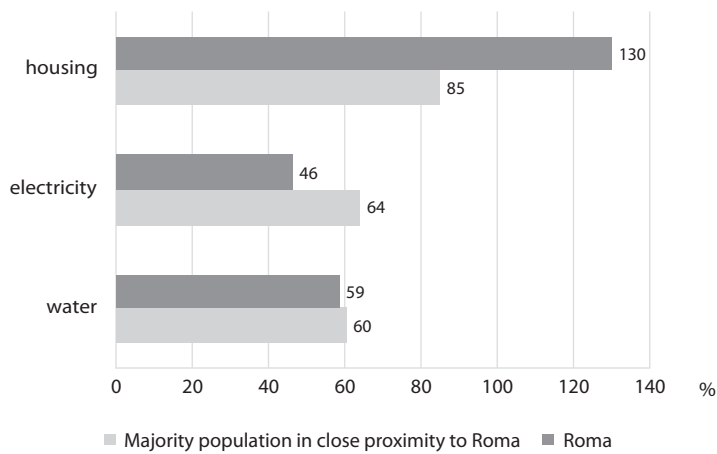
The "Essential drugs" section of the graph shows the share of households responding "Yes" to the question "Were there any periods in the past 12 months when your household could not afford to purchase medicines prescribed to/ needed by a member of your household?" "Secure housing" shows the share of those living in "ruined houses" or "slums". "Improved sanitation" shows the share of households not having a toilet or bathroom inside the house. "Improved water source" shows the share of the population living in households not having piped water inside the dwelling or in the garden/yard.

Hungary: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

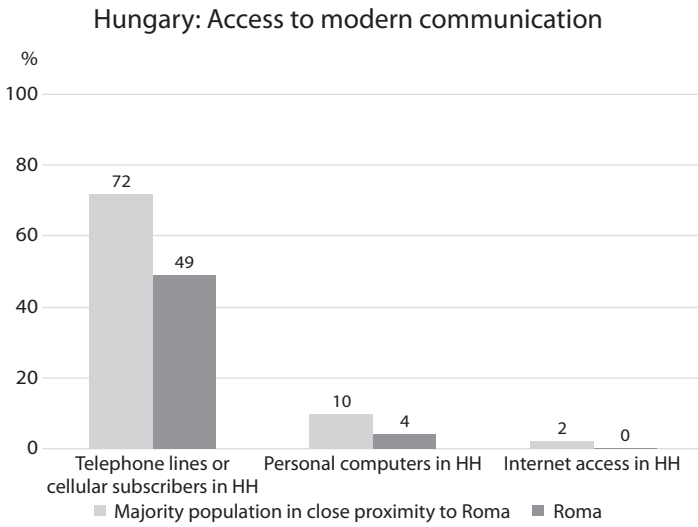


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Hungary: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)

The Roma fled Kosovo before, during and after the NATO air raids of June 1999. As a result, it has been difficult for the local authorities and international organizations to include the Roma in their statistics.

The latest census (1991) registered 42,806 people in Kosovo who declared themselves to be Roma. Different expert sources claim that those who associated themselves with another ethnic group but who have close Roma characteristics number between 100,000 and 150,000 people. These figures have been confirmed by international institutions, which tried to count the refugees and the internally displaced persons and agreed, with some reservations, that 62,000 Roma and about 21,000 Egyptians left Kosovo after the air raids. These data are relatively accurate, because the difference is accounted for by a third group that has been living in Kosovo for centuries, and has identified itself as Ashkali. The Egyptians and the Ashkali are close to each other because they both speak Albanian.

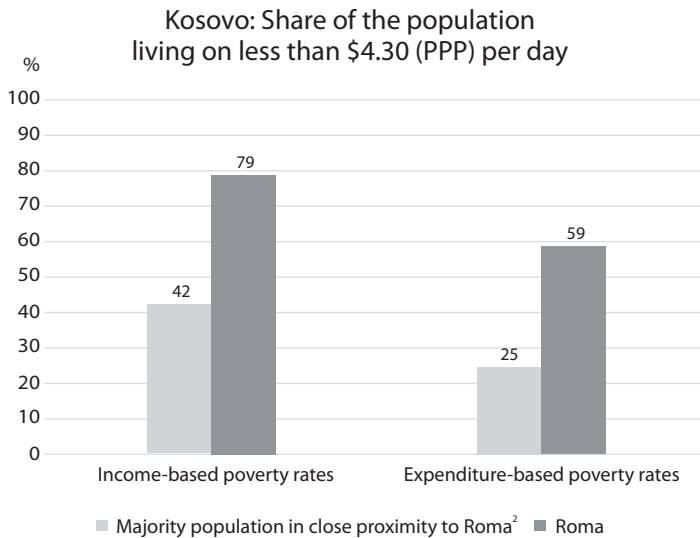
Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians were expelled from many towns and villages, and their houses were destroyed or set on fire. This happened to entire Roma neighbourhoods in Mitrovica, Pristina and Gnjilane. The predominant part of these refugees relocated to Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, while others found refuge in Western Europe (in autumn 1999, 12,000 Roma from Kosovo were registered in Italy alone). According to international organizations, about 30,000 Roma and Egyptians are living now as IDPs in the former Yugoslav Republic, but according to independent experts that number actually exceeds 80,000 people.

Currently, some 30,000 to 35,000 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians are living in Kosovo. About 90 percent of the Kosovo Roma lives in extreme poverty: they have €1/day while the poverty line in Kosovo is €60/month. As a result, the mortality rate is high and access to health services is minimal for the members of Roma community. According to data from the World Bank, in 2000 only one third of the Roma children in Kosovo go to school, and barely 2 percent are in a position to continue their education after primary school.

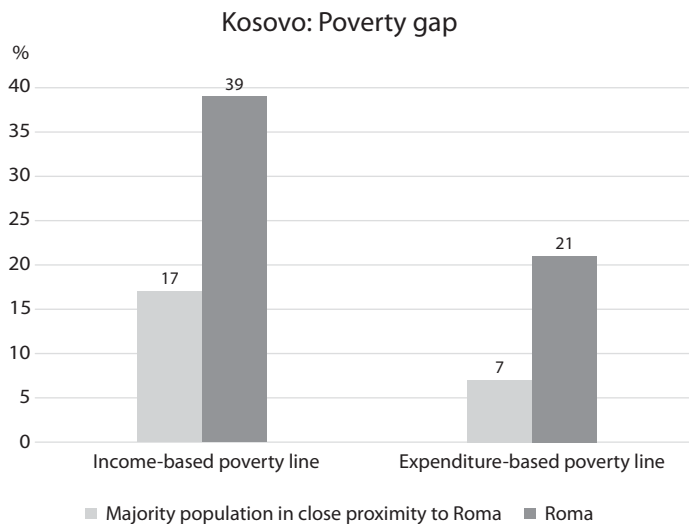
The Albanian majority in Kosovo is still intolerant towards other ethnic groups. Thus, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians live in permanent ethnic tension while crude forms of nepotism pervade. During the March 2004 clashes, not only Serbs were attacked but also the Roma; more than 700 houses were set alight.

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians are represented in 16 municipal councils. Nevertheless, the return of the refugees and the IDPs to Kosovo is of paramount importance: after the conflict and the related emigration from Kosovo, the community was significantly drained by the loss of its professional and intellectual elite.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

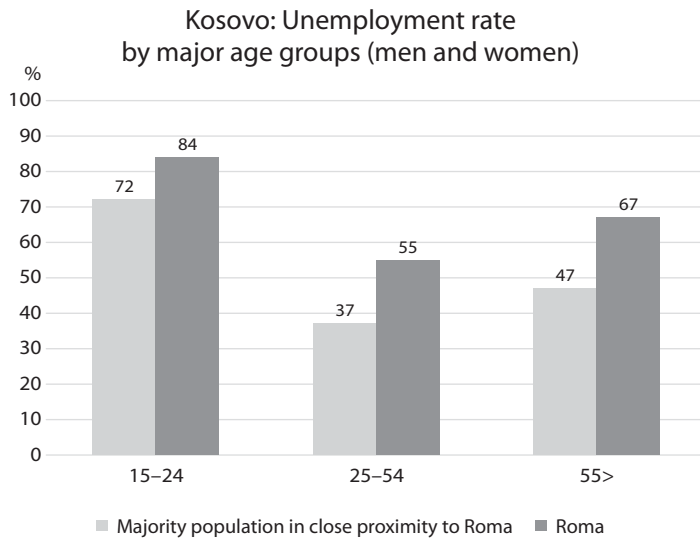


The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

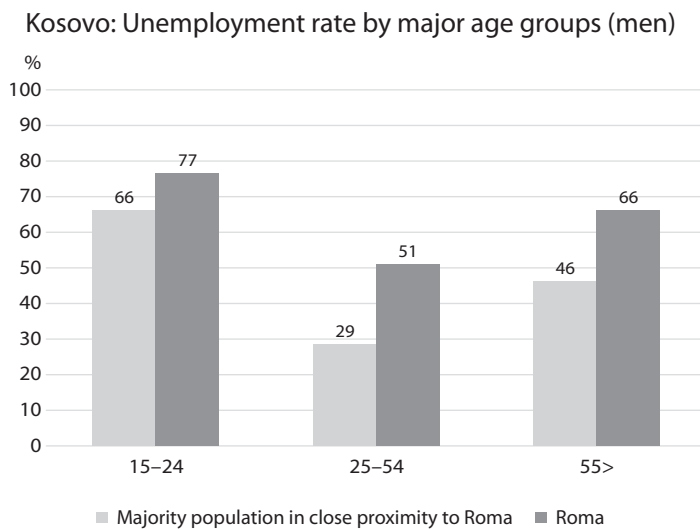
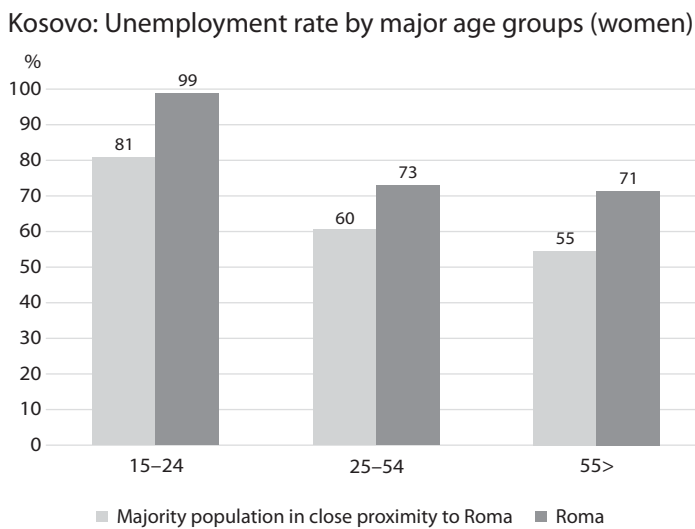
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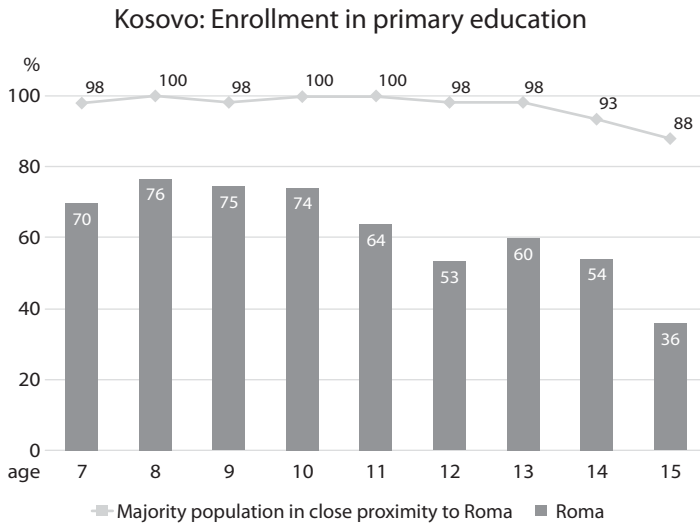
Unemployment



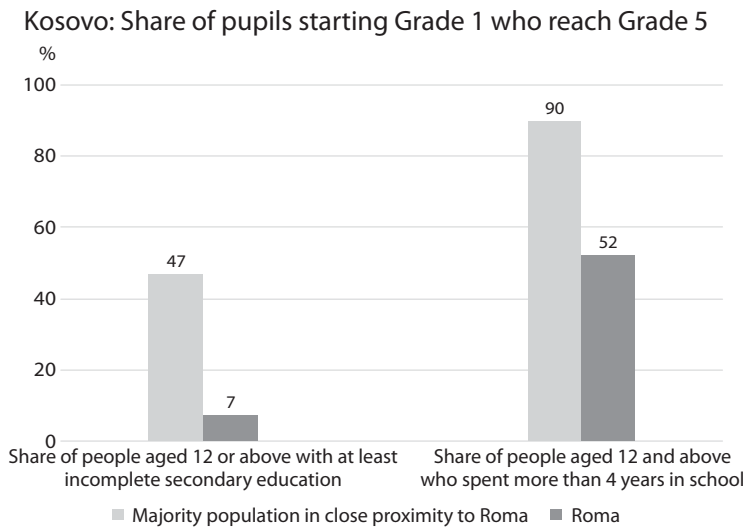
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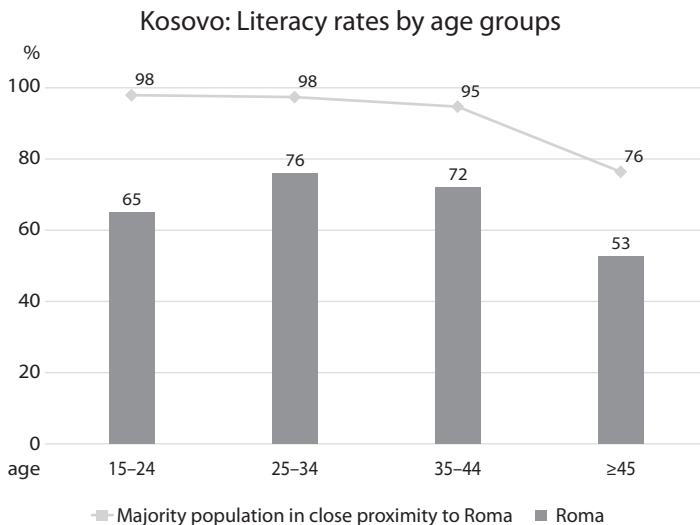
Education



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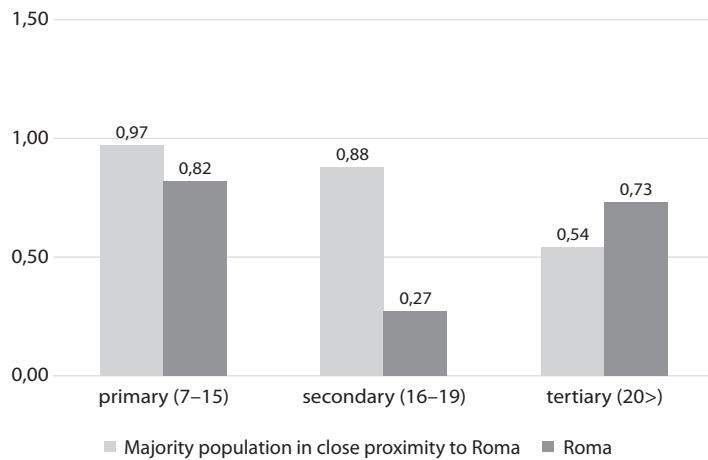
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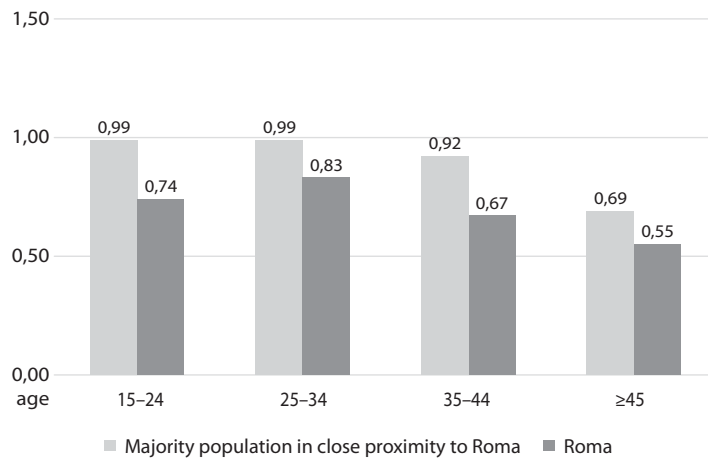
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Kosovo: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



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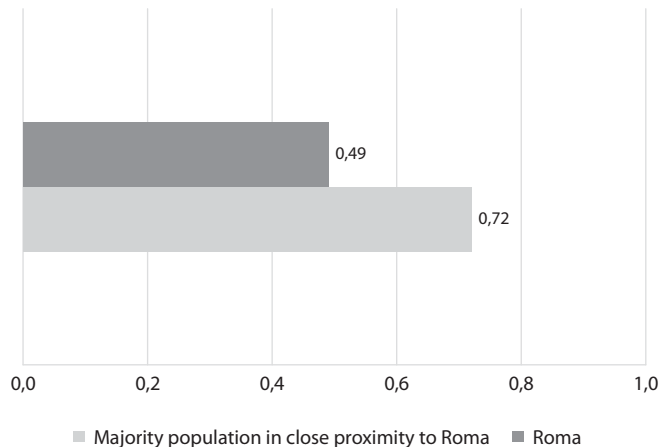
Kosovo: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



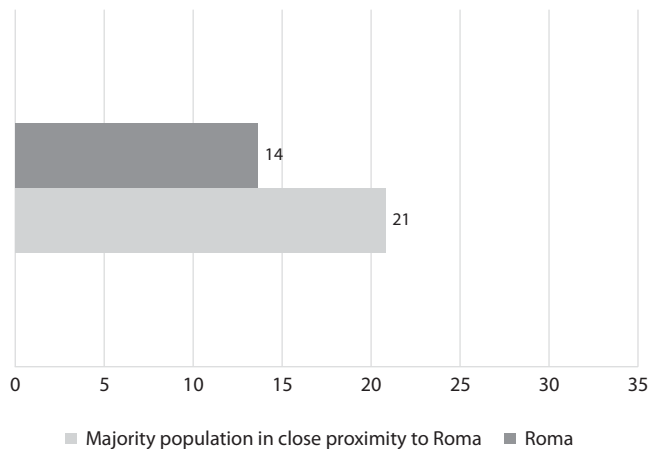
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Housing and living conditions

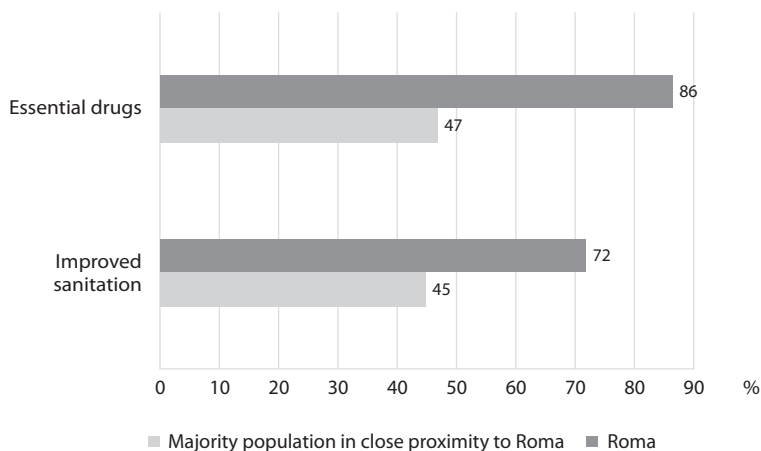
Kosovo: Rooms per household member



Kosovo: Square meters per household member



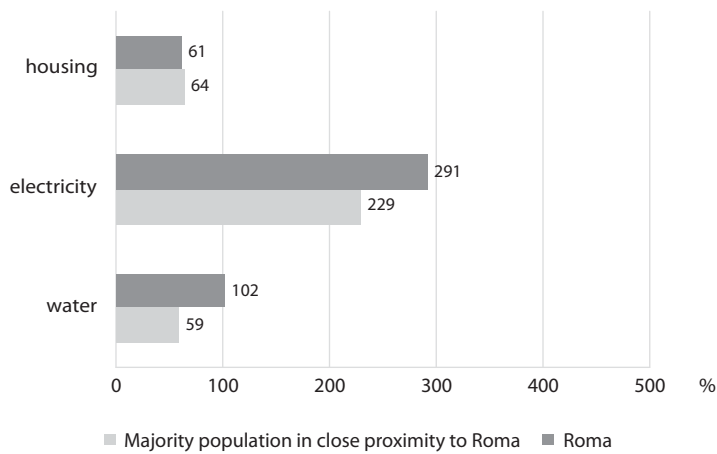
Kosovo: Shares of the population not having access to:



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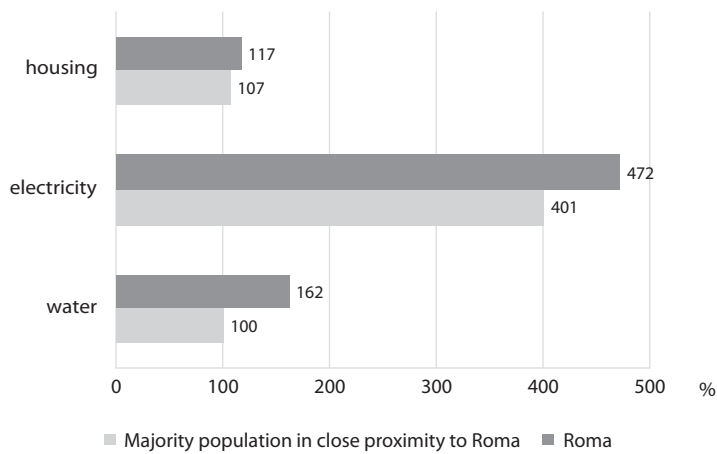
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Kosovo: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

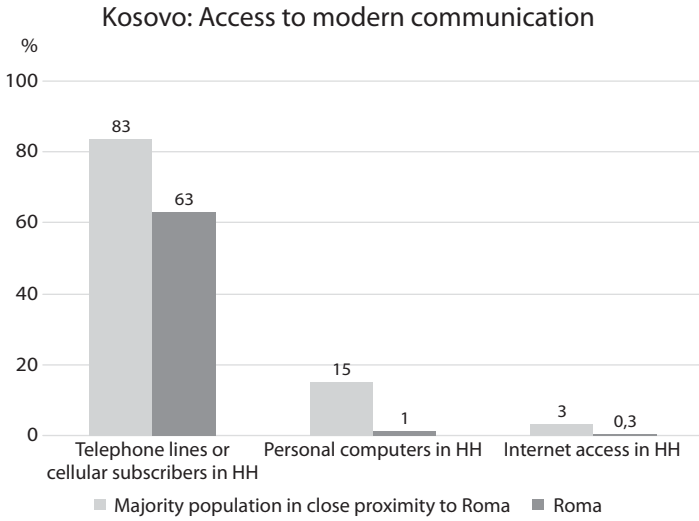


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Kosovo: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



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Macedonia

In 2002, according to the last census, 2.66 percent or 53,879 of the 2,022,547 citizens of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were Roma. But unofficial figures put the Macedonian Roma population at 135,490.

The Roma live in almost all regions of Macedonia. Most reside in the central and peripheral parts of cities, and a very small number of Roma live in villages. For many reasons, the Roma tend to accept the identity of other nations such as Turkey, Albania or Egypt. This phenomenon is regional (Balkan) in nature and is largely due to stereotypes and prejudices towards the Roma.

Under the Constitution of the former Yugoslavia, the Roma were categorized as 'other minority'. After the Ohrid Agreement in 2001, the Roma received the status of 'constitutive people' in the Republic of Macedonia. Because of the complex multiethnic nature of Macedonia, there are provisions in the country's Constitution that list and guarantee rights to the nation's minorities. The Roma, too, are acknowledged as a national minority with all proceeding rights, freedoms, and protection from racial and religious discrimination (art. 8, art. 9, art. 20, art. 48, etc.).

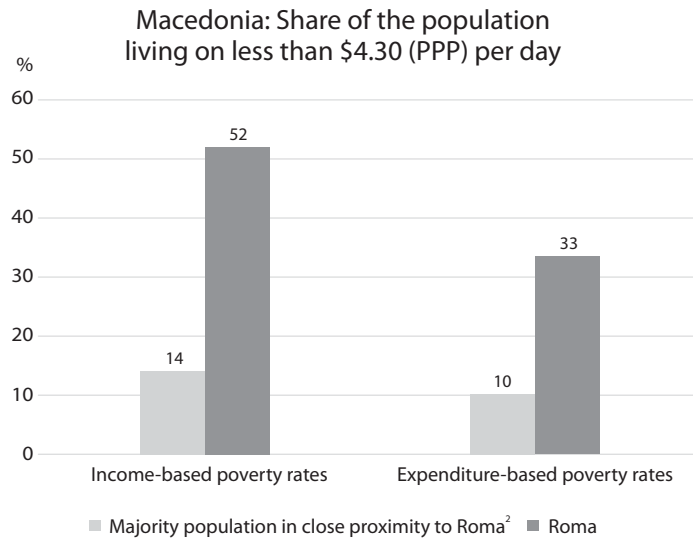
In Macedonia, the Roma are not a homogenous group but a complex mixture of many groups. The most important are Arlie, Dzambazi and Kovac. Most Roma are Muslims, a small number are Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses. Some of Macedonia's Roma speak the Romany language as their first language. But in West Macedonia the Roma speak Albanian, Turkish and Macedonian. In East Macedonia there are groups who speak only Turkish and declare themselves Turkish.

Roma in Macedonia have their own political parties: the United Party for Emancipation of Roma, the Party of the Union of Roma in Macedonia and the Democratic Progressive Party of Roma. These participated in local elections with a varying success. There is one Roma representative in Parliament. In some places where the Roma are predominant, such as the Shuto Orizari municipality, they have had positive experiences in local government. Shuto Orizari, built after the 1963 earthquake, is the only Roma municipality in Europe, and the Roma there have participated in building their own houses. Since 1990, Roma in Macedonia have had their own television and radio programmes on national and private stations, as well as their own print media.

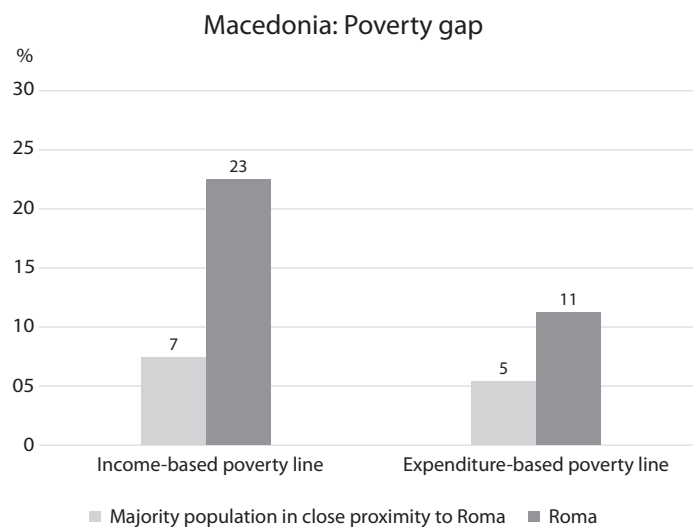
Traditionally, Roma have worked as unskilled labourers: cleaning, black market sales, playing music. Due to economic crises in Macedonia and transition-related factors (such as the restructuring and closure of loss-making enterprises), more people are relying on social benefits. However, Roma are overrepresented among these recipients, reflecting the fact that they are on the lowest end of the socio-economic development hierarchy.

In Macedonia there are cases of discrimination in the employment process, in education, by the police, in access to basic infrastructures, and in terms of social advances. But the Republic of Macedonia is not a drastic example in this regard, and the situation for the Roma, particularly regarding discrimination, is better than in many other countries in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

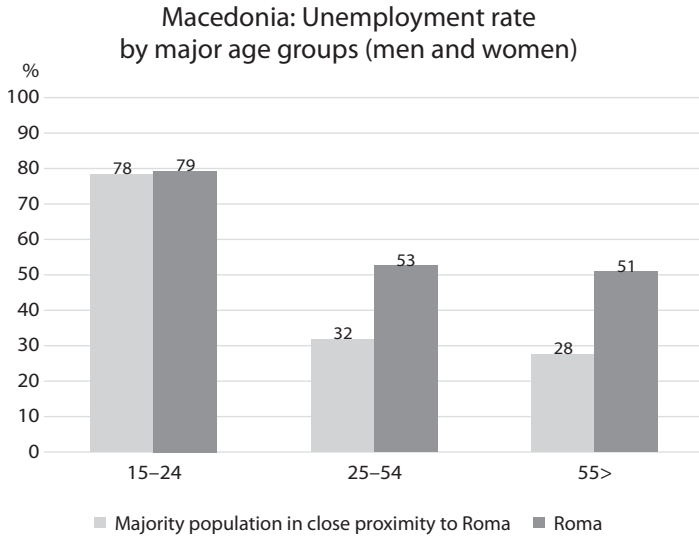


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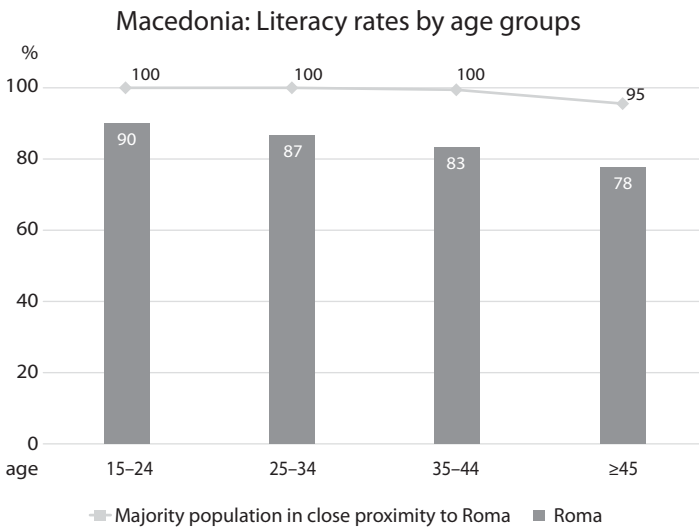
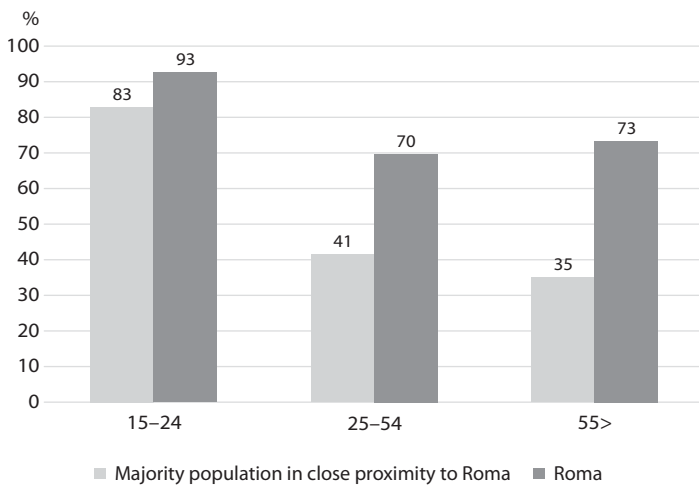
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Unemployment

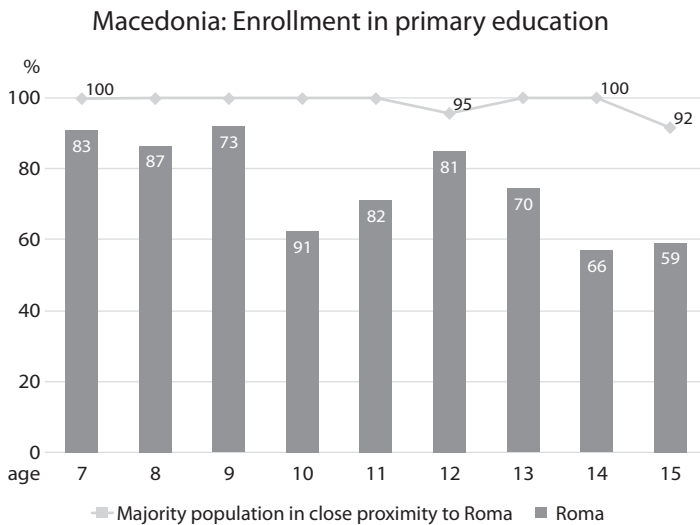


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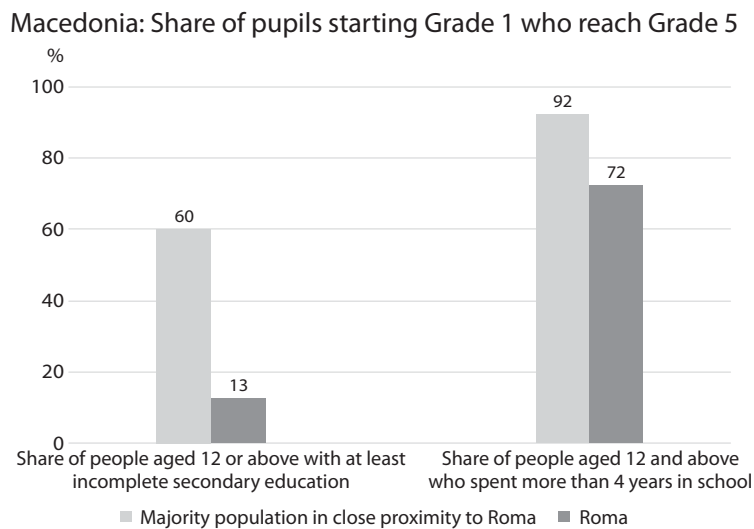
Macedonia: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)



Education



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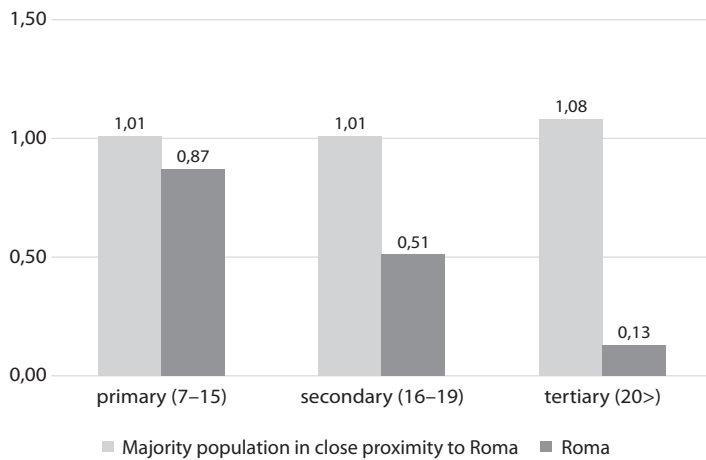
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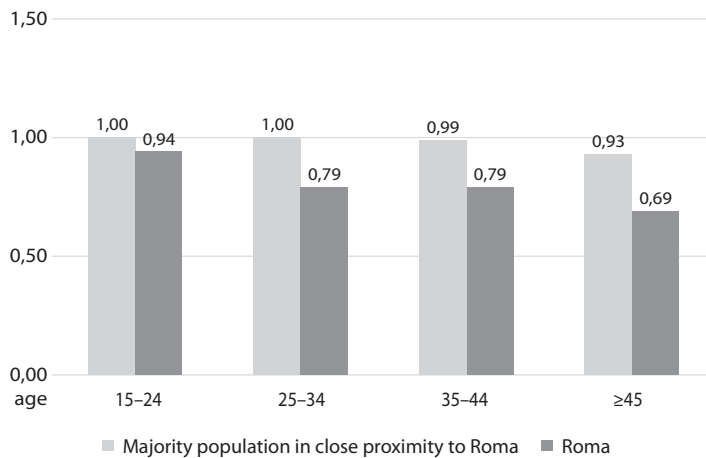
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Macedonia: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



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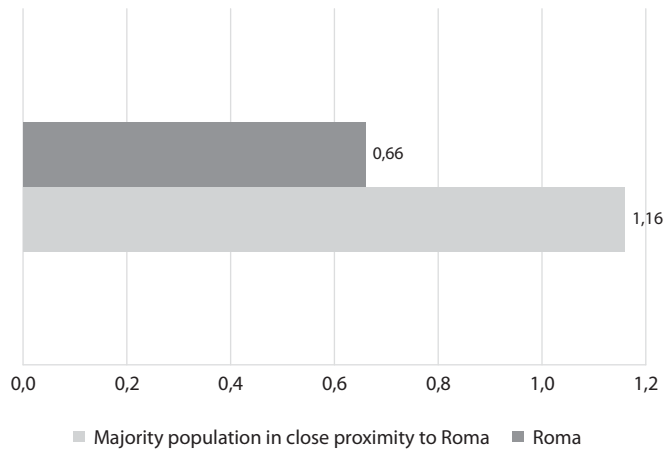
Macedonia: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



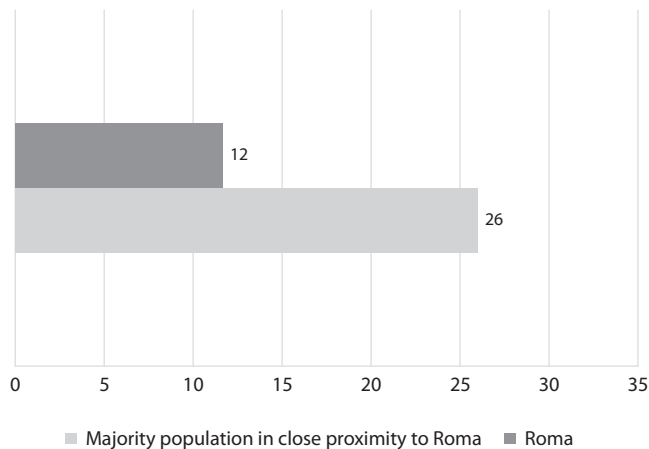
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Housing and living conditions

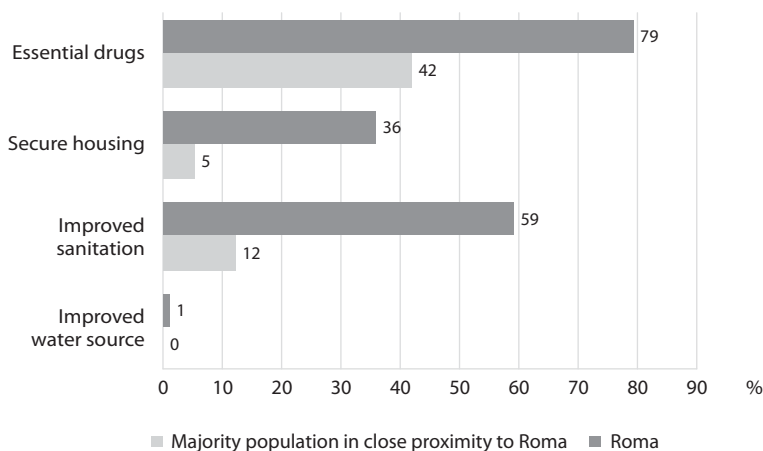
Macedonia: Rooms per household member



Macedonia: Square meters per household member



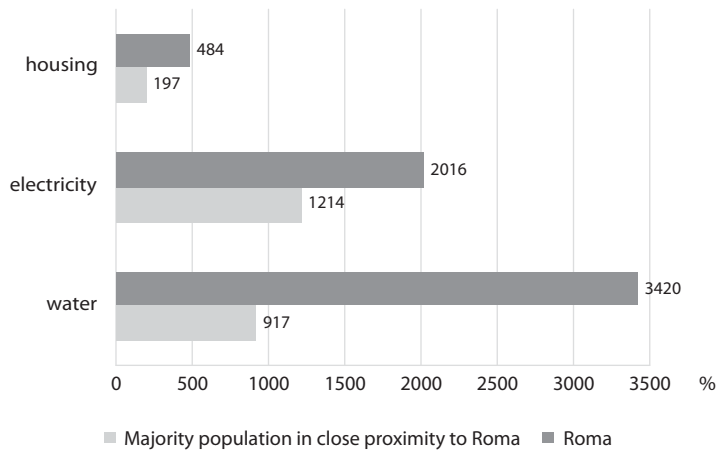
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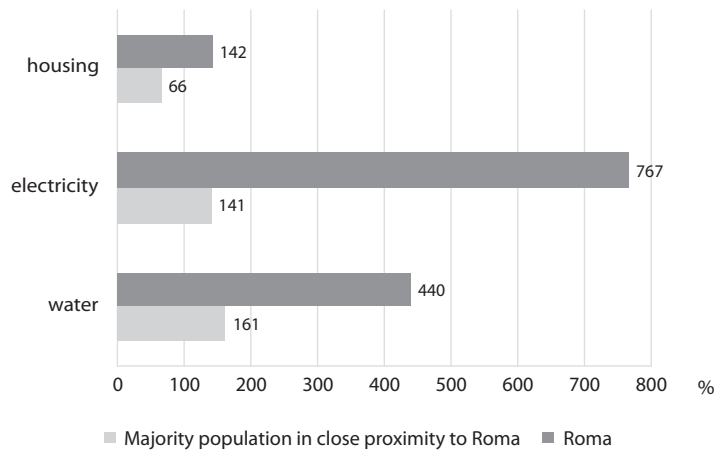
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Macedonia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

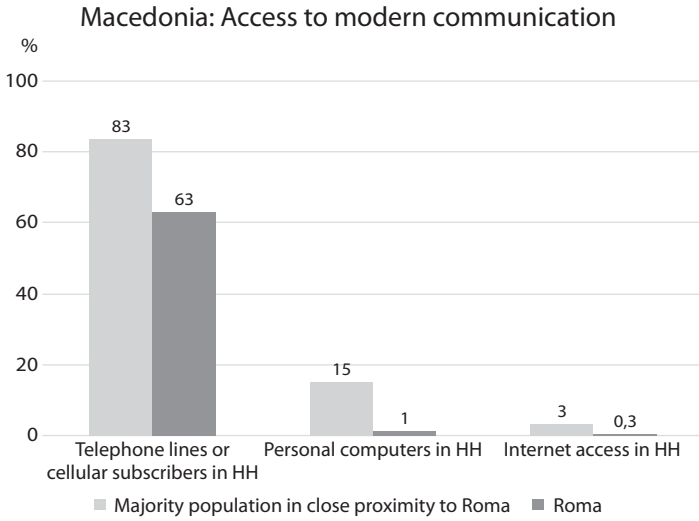


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Macedonia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Montenegro

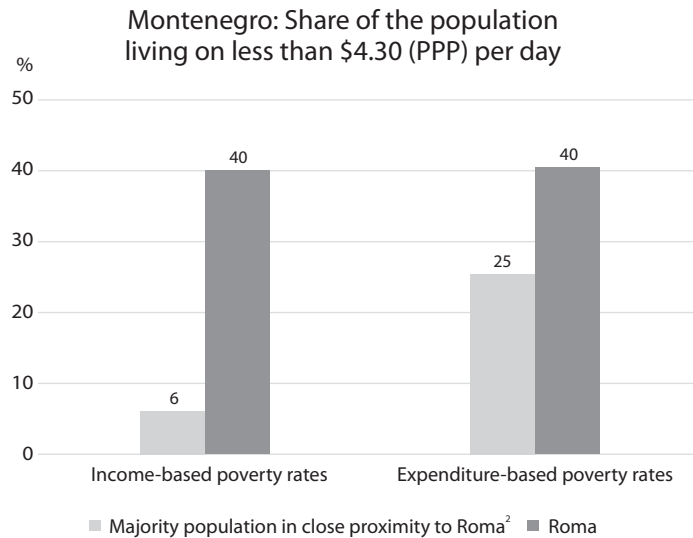
Montenegro conducted its most recent census in November 2003. At that time there were 2,875 Roma in Montenegro, a slight decrease compared to the 1991 census when 3,282 people declared their identity as Roma. These official estimates, however, vastly underestimate the number of Roma. According to experts' estimates, the real number of Roma in Montenegro is some 20,000 people, which makes them the fourth largest minority in the Republic after Serbs, Muslims/Bosniaks and Albanians. The majority (68.7 percent) of Roma live in Central Montenegro, 24.8 percent have settled along the coast and 6.5 percent live in the north of the Republic. Most live in towns (88.6 percent); only 11.4 percent reside in villages. Twelve percent of Roma belong to the Orthodox religion, and 82 percent are Muslim. Over 71 percent of the Roma in Montenegro are under 30.

During the Kosovo crisis, about 43,000 Roma refugees and internally displaced persons came to Montenegro, and in 2000, 7,000 Roma settled there permanently. Only 7 percent consider a possible return to their native Kosovo, 42 percent have decided to remain in Montenegro, and 51 percent intend to pursue their future, legally or illegally, in other European countries. This Roma exodus is the most significant one, because, for example, about 1,000 Roma went from Bosnia to Montenegro while not more than 15 households moved from Croatia.

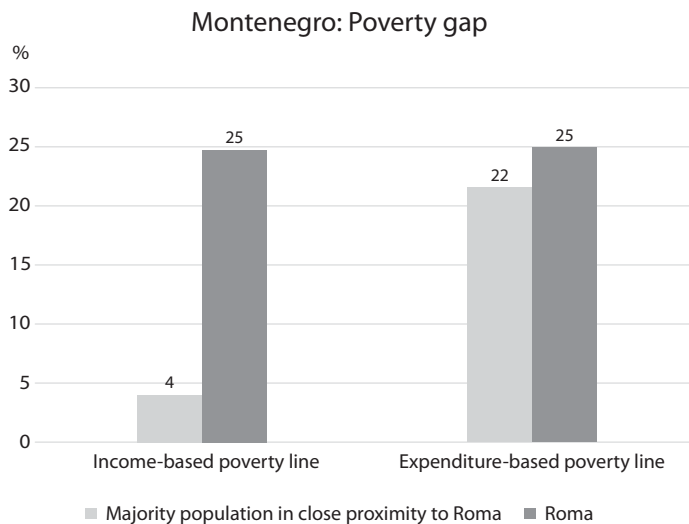
The basic Roma rights in Montenegro are laid out in the Republic's 1992 Constitution. About 66 percent of Roma declare themselves Roma, 24 percent declare themselves Egyptians and some smaller numbers as Muslims, Montenegrins, Croats, Albanians and nationals of the former Yugoslav Republic. However, significant numbers of Roma declare themselves Montenegrins, and this is why the shares of the internal divisions within the Roma community may be different.

There are no regular broadcasts in the Roma language either on radio or TV, nor do they have print media. Sixty-three percent have no education, and 21 percent have not completed primary education. NGOs claim that half of the 20,000 Roma living in Montenegro do not have any identity documents (although most of them have medical documents). This complicates the attempts of the internally displaced Roma to integrate into Montenegrin society or to find a permanent job. Language barriers additionally complicate the issue (proper education (most of IDPs from Kosovo speak Albanian). Most Roma households rely on assistance from humanitarian organizations or on temporary employment without any contract, usually in the grey economy.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

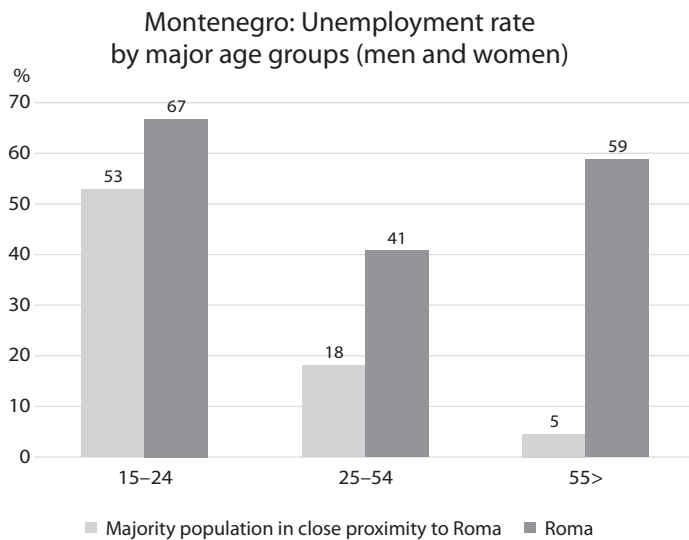


The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

¹ For an explanation of PPP (purchasing power parity) please see the Glossary.

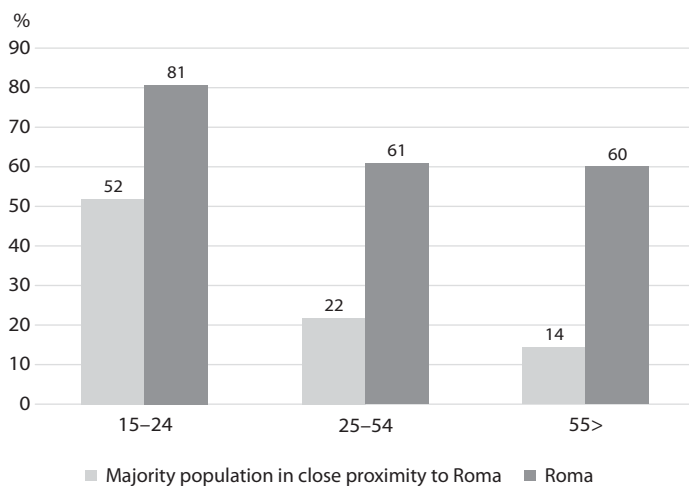
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Unemployment

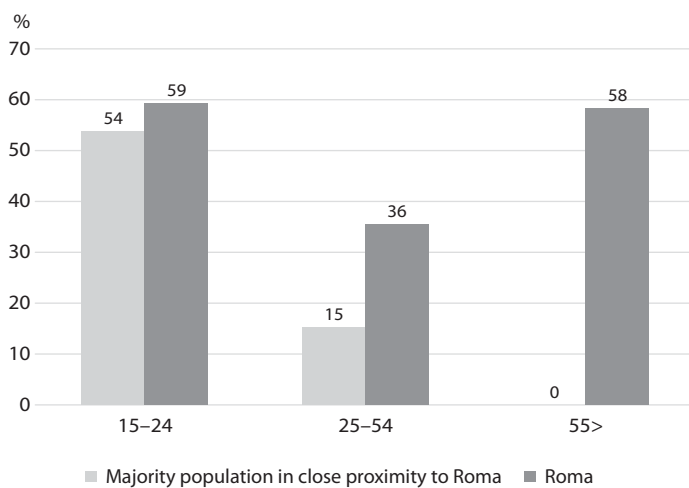


The graphs in this section illustrate the unemployed as a share of the labour force. Following the definition applied in Labour Force Surveys "Labour force" is defined as the working-age population (aged 15 and above) excluding people who are retired, in school and/or involved with housekeeping.

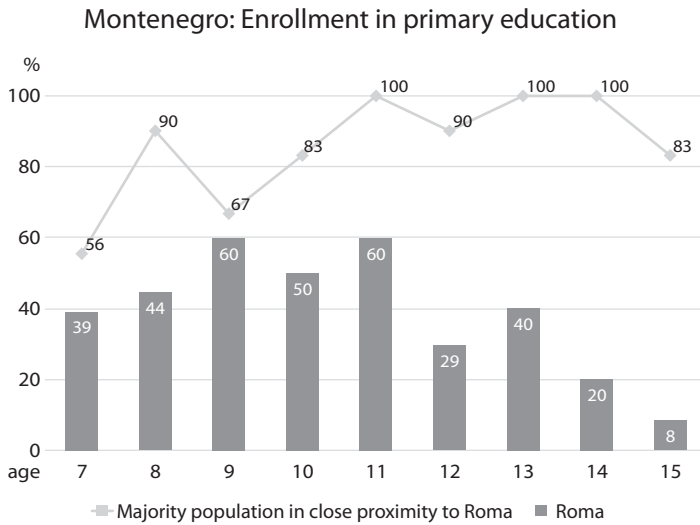
Montenegro: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)



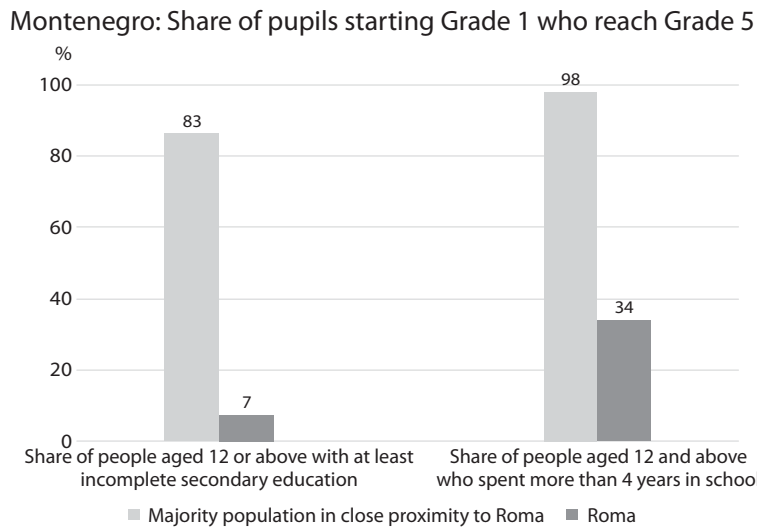
Montenegro: Unemployment rate by major age groups (men)



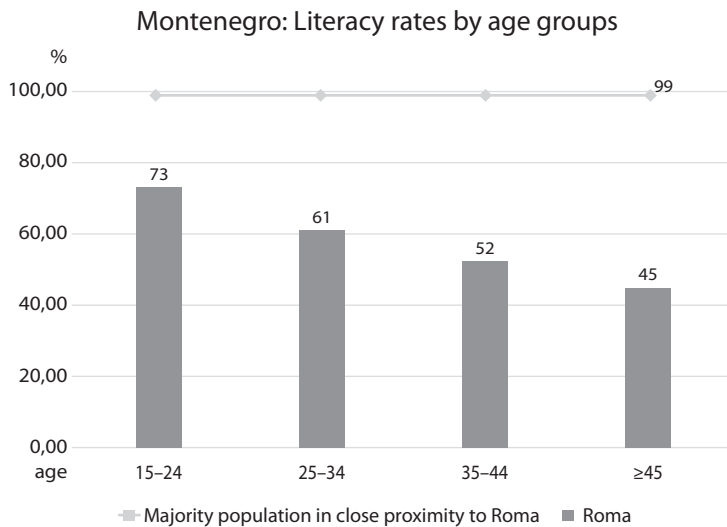
Education



The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).



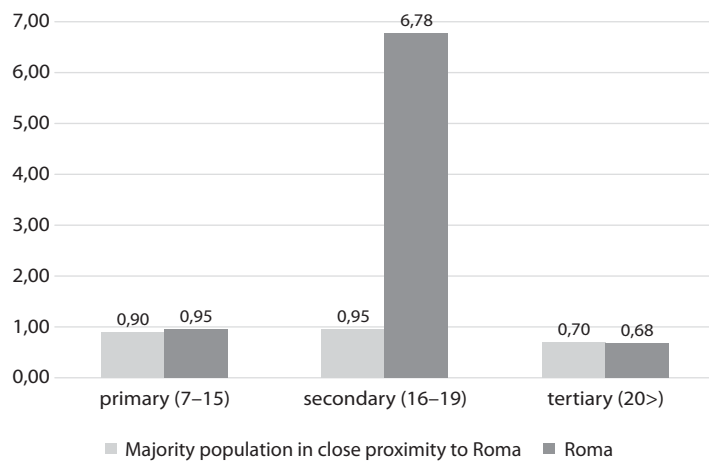
The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write”?

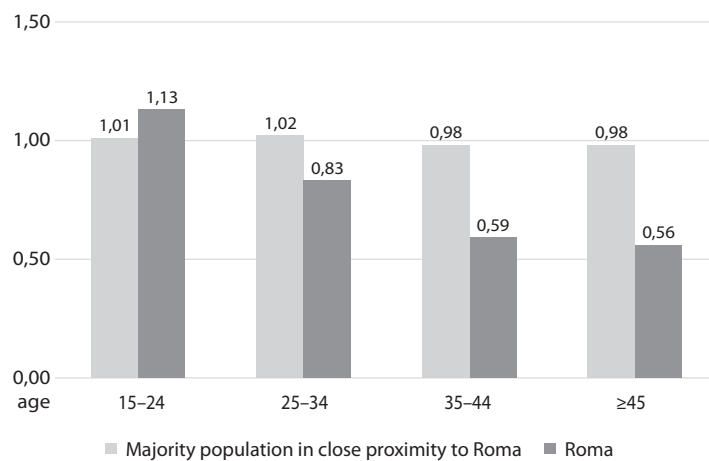
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Montenegro: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7–15 years old), secondary (16–19) and tertiary (above 20).

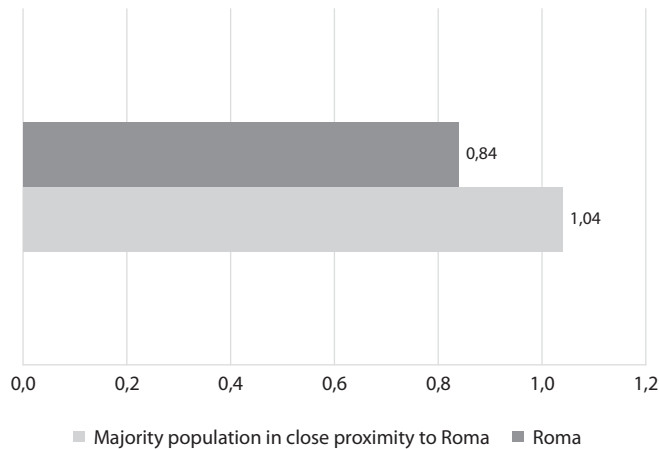
Montenegro: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

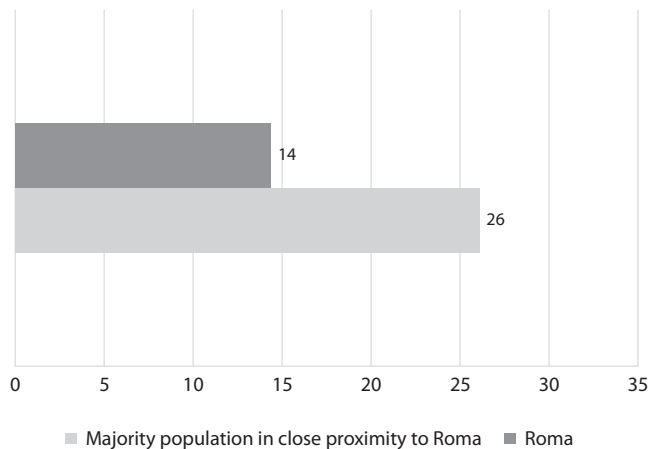
Housing and living conditions

Montenegro: Rooms per household member

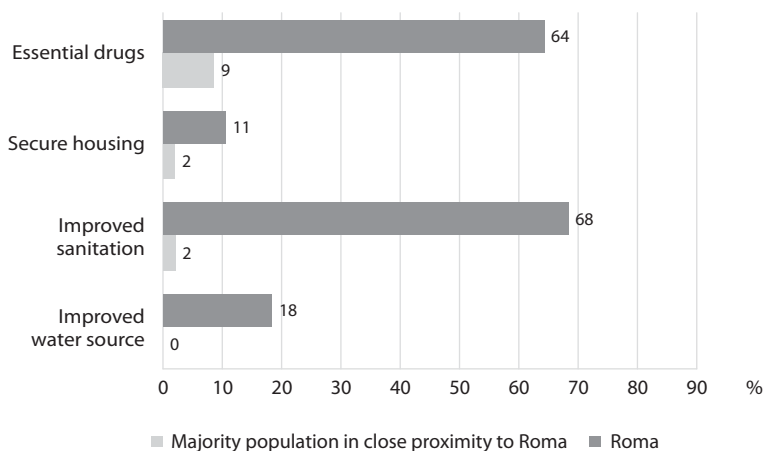


The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question "How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?" The second one is based on "How many square meters is your current dwelling?" Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

Montenegro: Square meters per household member

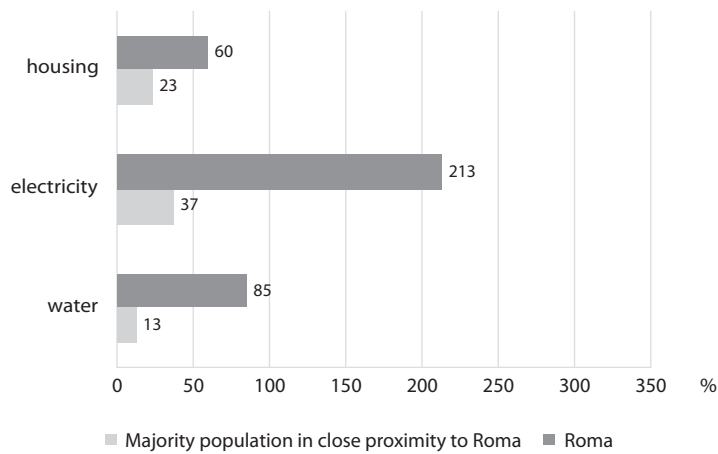


Montenegro: Shares of the population not having access to:



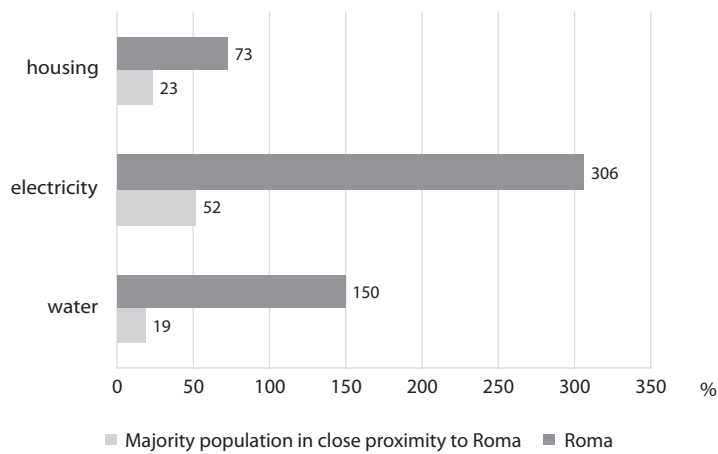
The "Essential drugs" section of the graph shows the share of households responding "Yes" to the question "Were there any periods in the past 12 months when your household could not afford to purchase medicines prescribed to/ needed by a member of your household?" "Secure housing" shows the share of those living in "ruined houses" or "slums". "Improved sanitation" shows the share of households not having a toilet or bathroom inside the house. "Improved water source" shows the share of the population living in households not having piped water inside the dwelling or in the garden/yard.

Montenegro: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

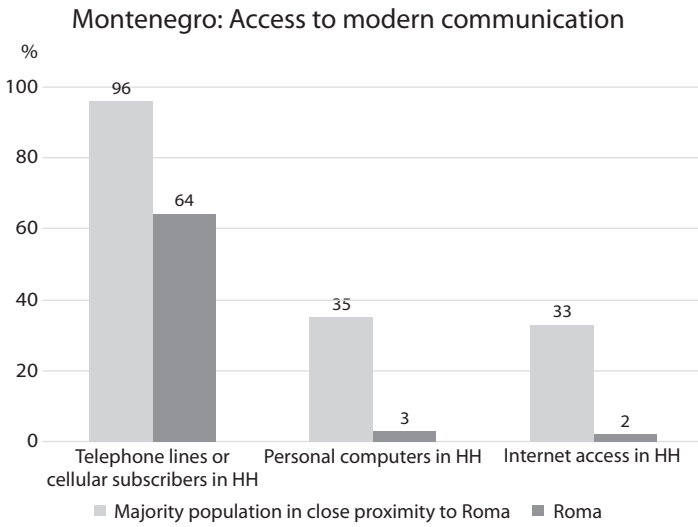


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Montenegro: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Romania

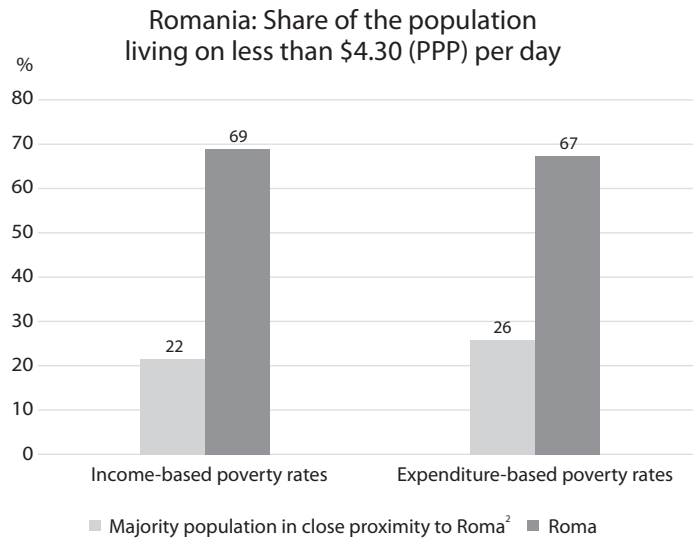
According to the 2002 census, in Romania there are 535,140 Roma, amounting to 2.5 percent of the total population. Experts presume there is an extremely high number of Roma who officially associate themselves with other ethnic groups. Therefore they estimate the real Roma population to number between 1.8 and 2.2 million. This means Romania has the largest Roma minority in Europe. About 45 percent of the Romanian Roma live in villages, the rest inhabit urban areas, often residing in dilapidated segregated neighborhoods.

Researchers estimate that the Roma's social, health and educational status in Romania is the most complicated and even alarming in some aspects: If at the end of the 1990s about 30 percent of the Romanian population was living under the poverty line, about 68 percent of the Roma are living below \$4.30 (PPP) per day. The infant mortality coefficient among children aged 0 to 4 is four times higher than the average for the country and almost twice the death rate among Roma children of the same age living in countries like the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Hungary, etc. The percentage of Roma who have no running water and sewerage in their houses is the highest (about 68 percent). The number of Roma households that do not have a separate bed for each family member nor a refrigerator, washing machine, cooker, TV, etc., is from two to four times higher as compared to the other countries in the survey. The number of school dropouts is the highest in this country due to poverty or the labour commitments of households. Taking the average values, we can say that the portion of functionally illiterate youths exceeds 32 percent by the time they enter the labour market.

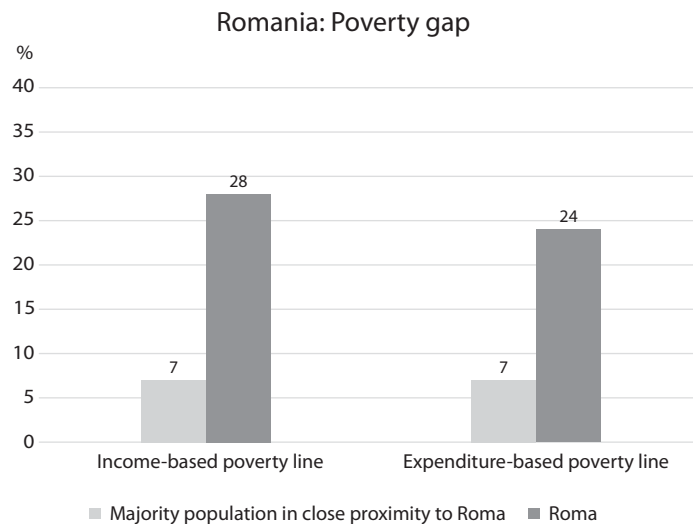
One of the biggest problems in Romania is that a great number of Roma lack personal and identity documents. They do not have birth certificates, identity cards or marriage certificates. This has prevented them from receiving social, municipal and health services. The lack of address registration and identity documents excludes, in fact, the Roma from Romanian social and health services.

Since April 2001, the Romanian Government has been implementing a 'Strategy for improving the situation of the Roma'. The strategy (both its development and implementation) is a promising example of inclusive approaches that have received NGO and Roma support.

Poverty and unemployment



The graph outlines the share of the population living below \$4.30 (PPP)¹ per day. (\$4.30 is the poverty line accepted by the World Bank and UNDP for international comparisons in developed economies). Per capita income is calculated using an OECD equivalence scale, which means that per capita income and expenditures are not simply “totals divided by the number of household members”, but divided by “an equalized number of household members” (for more details see the Glossary).

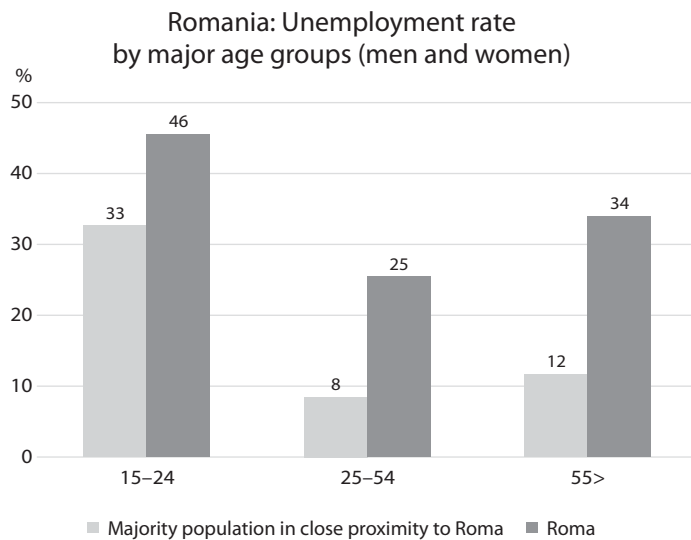


The graph shows the depth of poverty: how poor are those below the poverty line? A lower poverty gap means that more people are closer to the poverty line (with greater chances of rising above it). A higher poverty gap means that more people are closer to the bottom with fewer chances to improve their condition (see the Glossary for more details).

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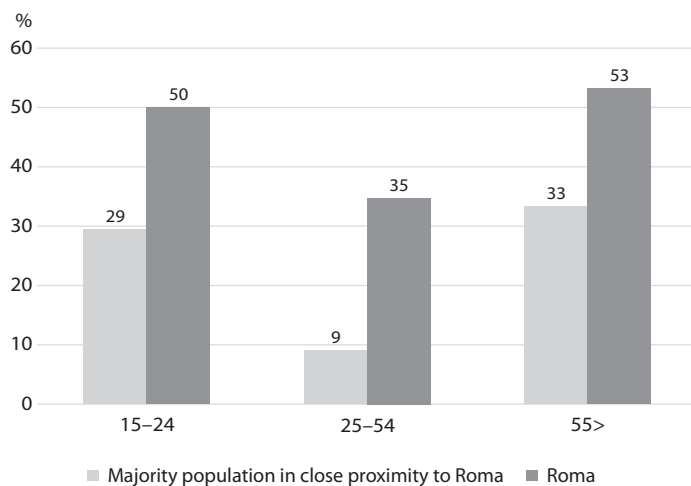
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Unemployment

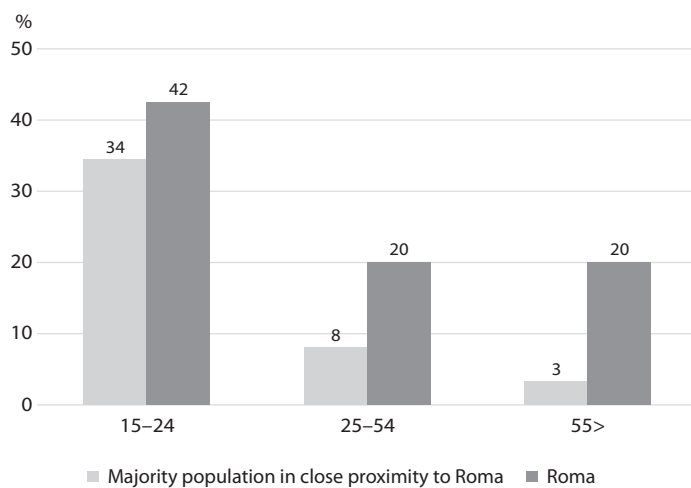


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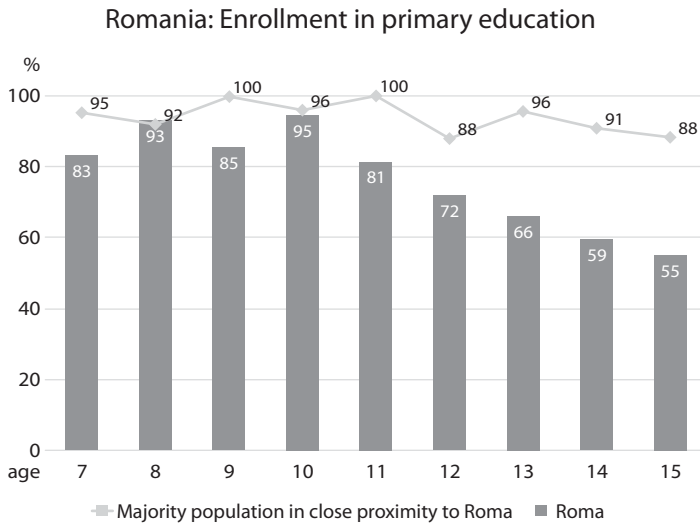
Romania: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)



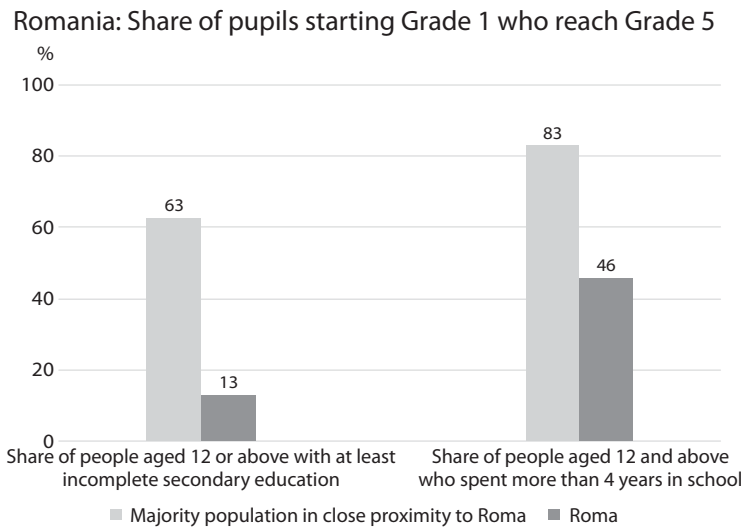
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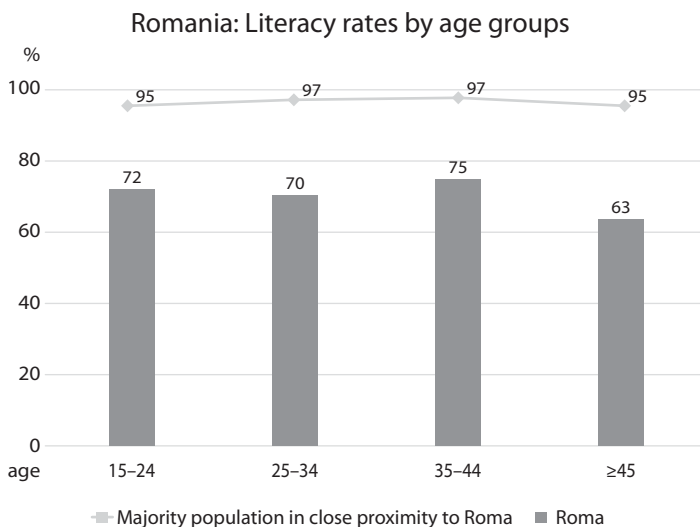
Education



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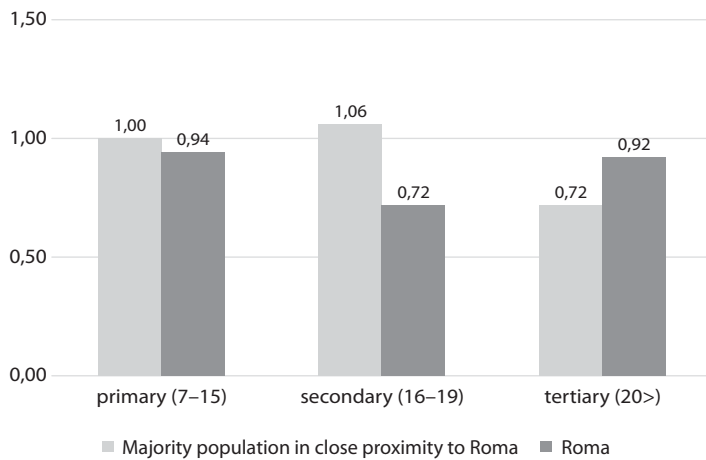
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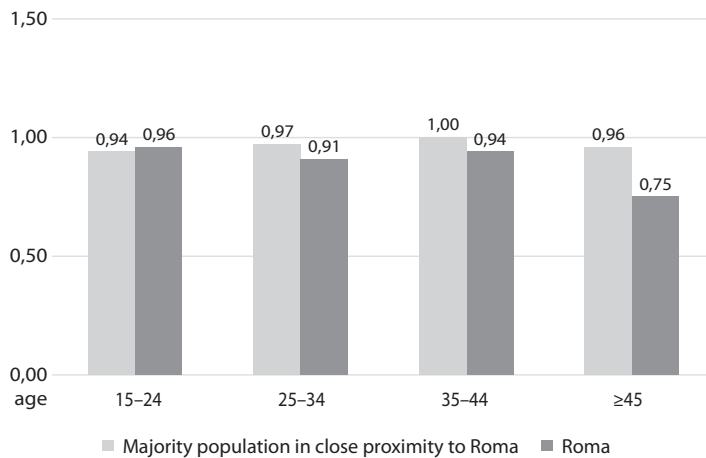
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Romania: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



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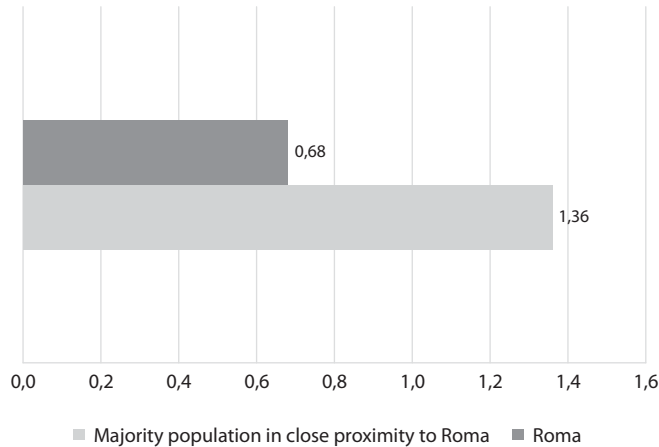
Romania: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



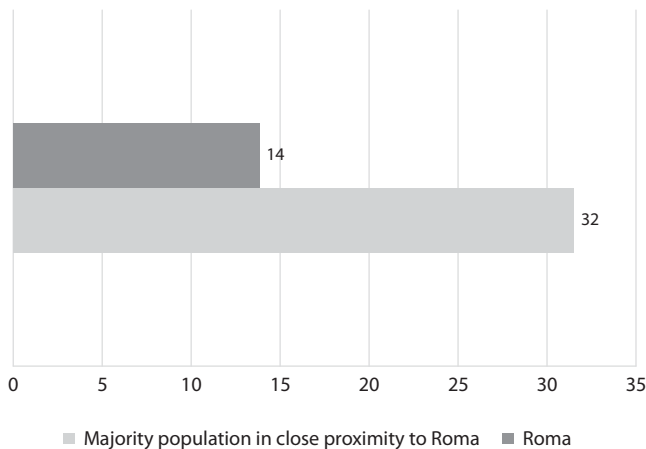
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Housing and living conditions

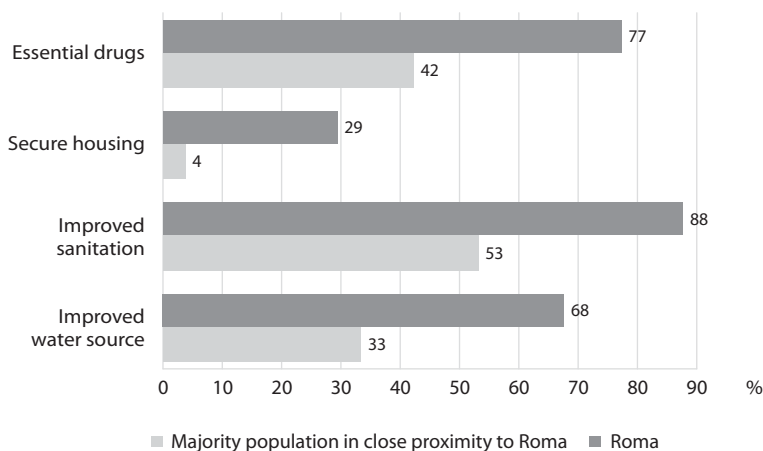
Romania: Rooms per household member



Romania: Square meters per household member



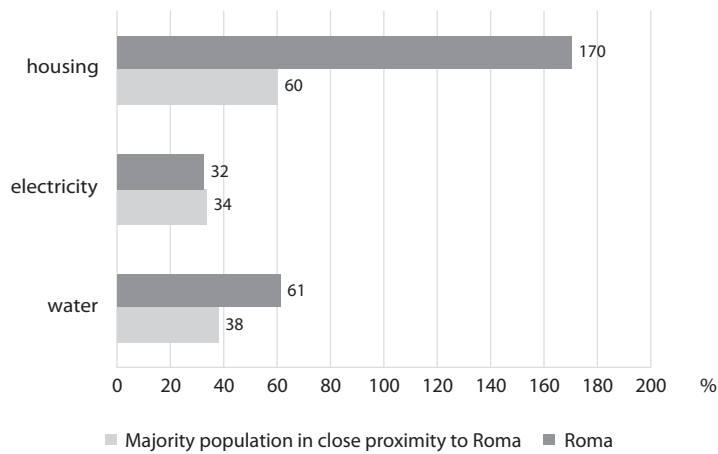
Romania: Shares of the population not having access to:



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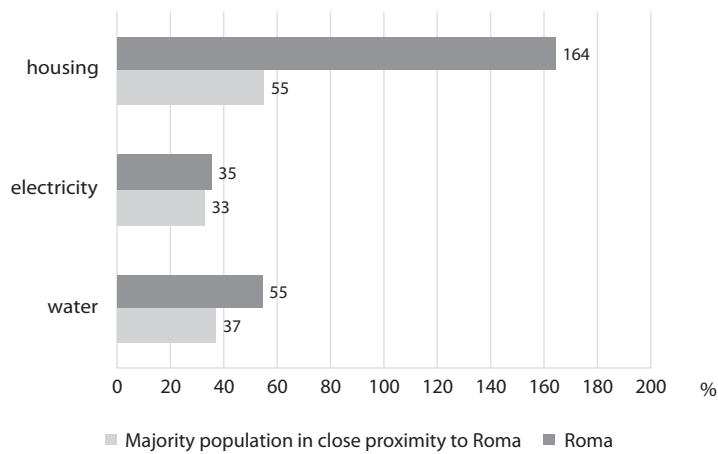
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Romania: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

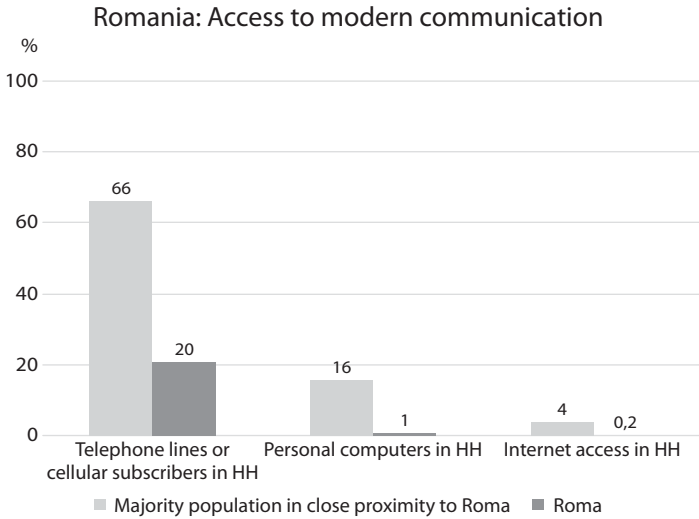


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Romania: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household income



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Serbia and Montenegro

In Serbia and Montenegro, many good researchers on Roma issues are trying to identify and classify the Roma's most pressing problems. A number of human rights and humanitarian organizations exist, and they are attempting to exert influence on government policies and to at least partially assist the Roma in their survival and education. A specialized state structure was established in Serbia and Montenegro called the Secretariat for Roma National Strategy within the Union Ministry for Human and Minority Rights established with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In 2002, it developed a strategy for Roma integration, a strategy for the education of the Roma in the Republic of Serbia, and a strategy for combating Roma poverty in Serbia and Montenegro. For the Decade of Roma Inclusion two separate National Action Plans were elaborated—for Serbia and for Montenegro.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the Roma face a double burden. On the one hand, they are a marginalized group. On the other hand, many are internally displaced persons and refugees. The situation is particularly difficult for Roma women, who have very few rights and considerable family obligations, many which start at a young age. According to NGOs, up to 90 percent of Roma women get married before reaching the age of 16, and up to 80 percent of marriages are arranged through intermediaries.

In the case of Serbia and Montenegro, the current survey was expanded to include three representative samples (for Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo), producing three different data sets. This was done in an effort to reflect more adequately the development challenges without making a statement on the political status of the different entities. In the publication the three data sets are presented separately.

Serbia

Counting the Roma population in Serbia and Montenegro has turned into a most complicated task due to the internal displacement and migration of thousands of Roma after the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the wars that followed. According to the 1991 census, the number of Roma in Serbia and Montenegro was 143,519 people. According to the census undertaken in Serbia excluding Kosovo in March 2002, the number of Roma living in Serbia (excluding Kosovo) was 108,193 (or 1.44% of the total population). Scholars claim that the Roma who associate themselves with other ethnic groups for the purposes of national censuses could amount to about 300,000 people in Serbia. One must add to this figure about 100,000 to 120,000 Roma, mostly internally displaced from Kosovo, and a negligible number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The latest research shows that 46,238 officially registered, internally displaced Roma, have settled in areas already inhabited by local Roma. Specialists think that at least 70,000 more internally displaced Roma have settled after 1999 in these areas without registration.

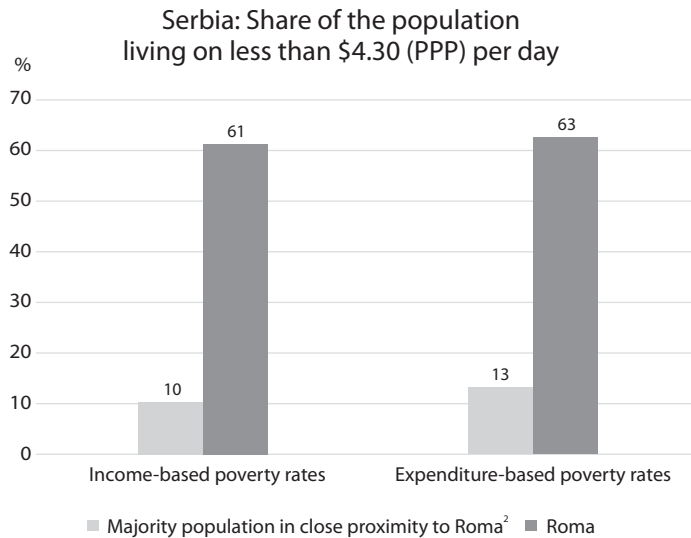
Another issue related to post-conflict population movement is resettling Roma returnees from Western Europe. These are people who escaped armed conflict and are now expected to return (mostly to Serbia) even though they face problems with housing and access to basic social services. It is a concern regularly highlighted by some of the representatives of the international community in Serbia (i.e. UNHCR, OSCE etc). The exact number of returnees is not available, but the issue is putting increasing pressure on the relevant institutions—in part because of the unclear magnitude of the problem and the lack of data (including identity registration).

Statistics are unable to determine the average life expectancy in these ghettos, nor can they define the infant mortality coefficient as compared to the country average. Illiteracy exceeds 35 percent, and the unemployed are all over the country. Serbian social scientists have introduced a new term in order to situate (find the right social place for) the Roma community. They call them *an ethno-class*, thus concluding that there is no other ethnic group in Europe that, in mass numbers, has been deprived of economic, political and cultural rights, their chances of survival reduced to the minimum.

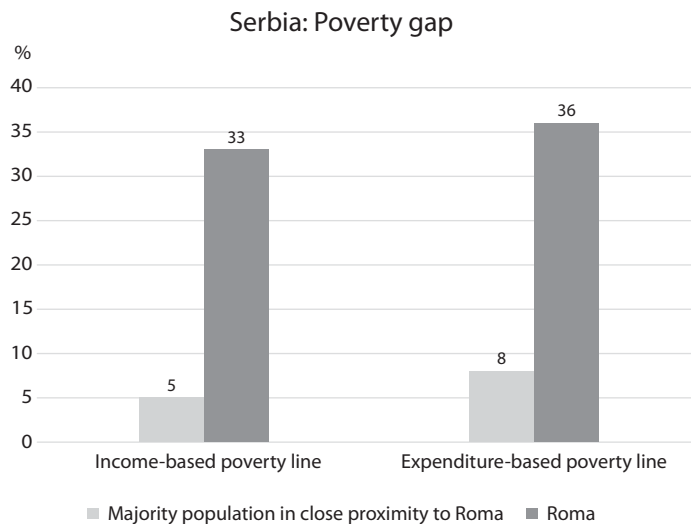
Their excluded condition makes it difficult for the government to carry out integration policies and requires huge financial resources to address their needs. Some 60 percent of the Roma are living at or below the absolute poverty level defined as \$4.30 PPP, although statistics may not always capture the whole picture—particularly the high presence of Roma in the informal sector (such as selling at market places) and within seasonal and occasional occupations. The accumulations of local and internally displaced Roma in towns and outlying ghettos are facing the threat of rapidly spreading epidemics.

The National Action Plan for Serbia developed in 2004 covers four areas: education, health, housing and employment. Additional action plans for Serbia covering other areas (i.e. media, internally displaced persons, gender, discrimination, culture, social protection etc.) are being developed and should be finalized by March 2005. The next step is to implement these policies.

Poverty and unemployment



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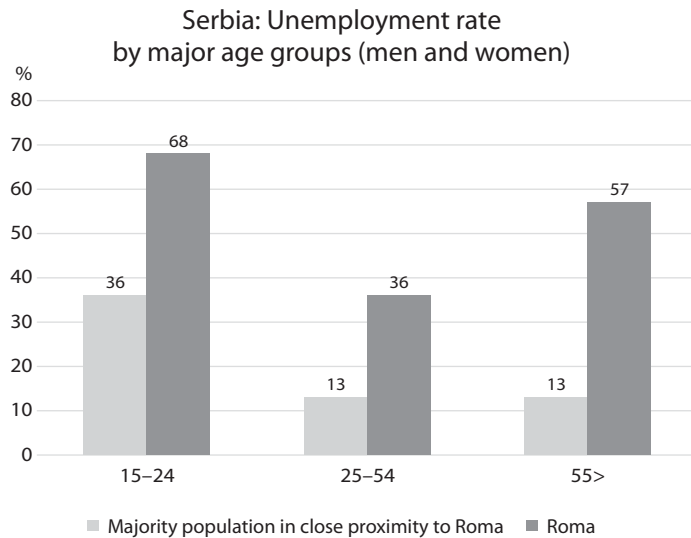


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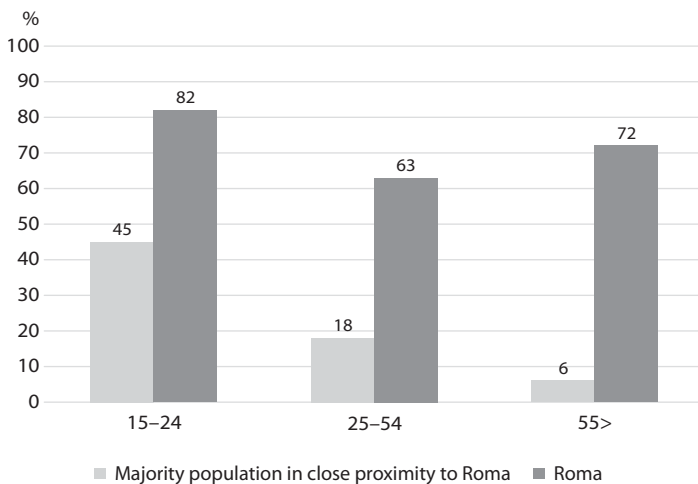
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Unemployment

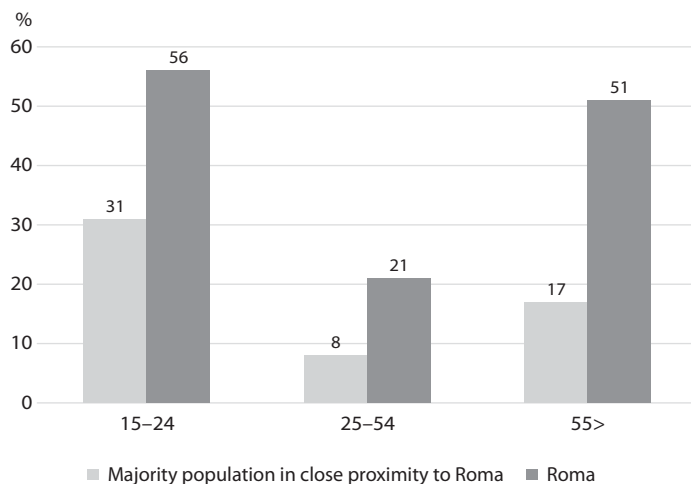


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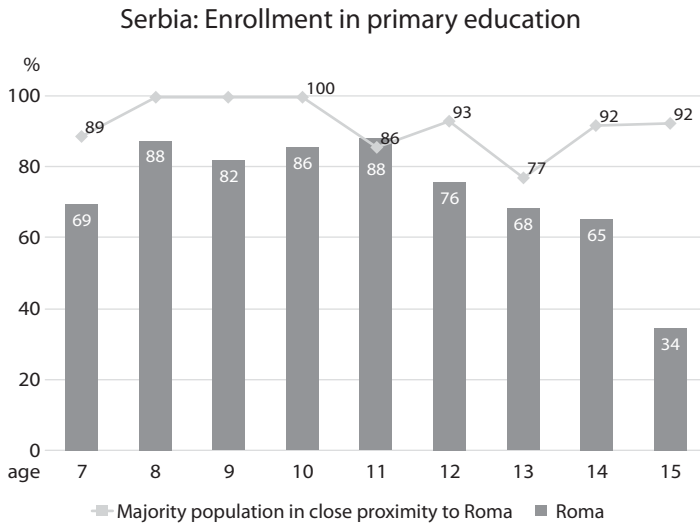
Serbia: Unemployment rate by major age groups (women)



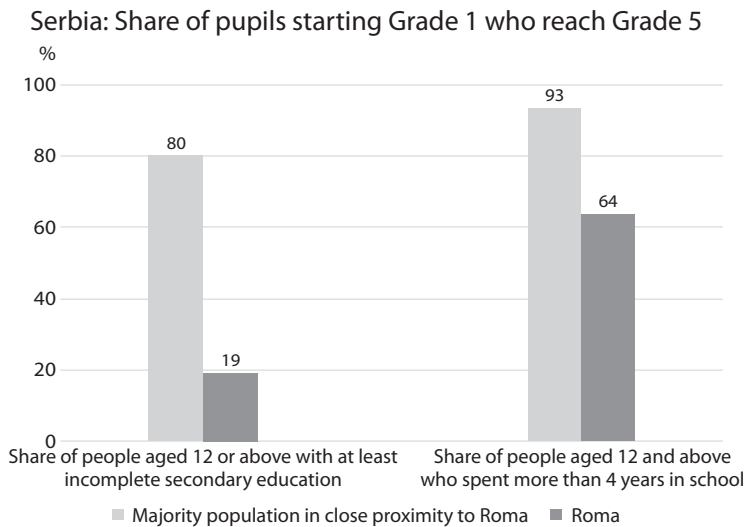
Serbia: Unemployment rate by major age groups (men)



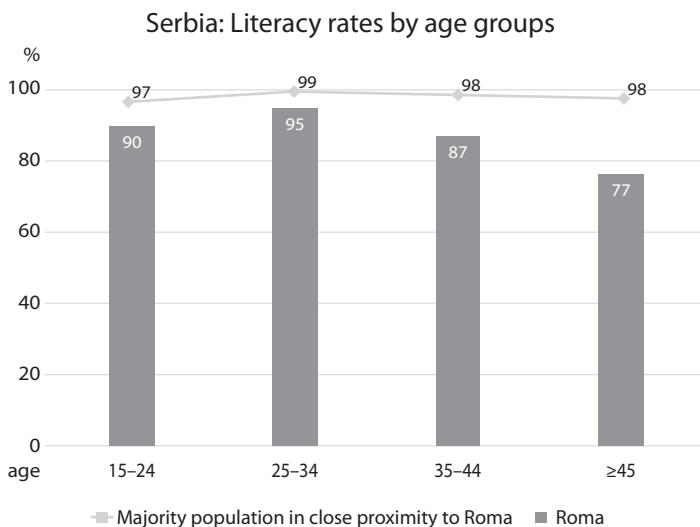
Education



The graph shows children by age who attend school as a share of those who should attend based on their age. The values are determined from the share of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” when the person concerned is of primary school age (7–15).



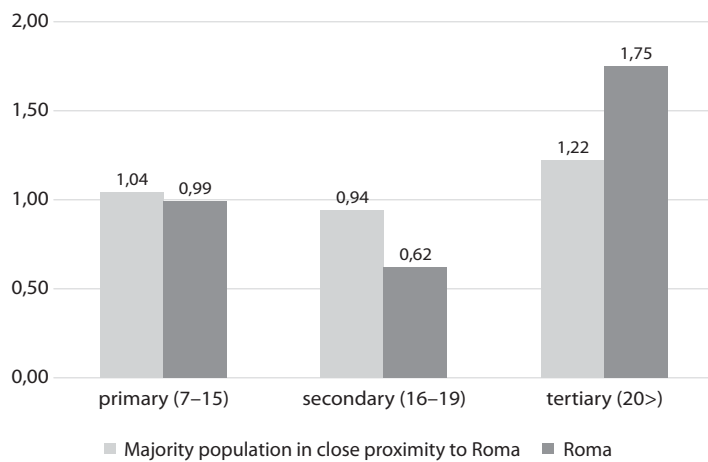
The first dataset in the graph shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of those aged 12 (i.e. of those who should have completed it). The second dataset shows the people who completed grade 5 as a share of all aged 12 and above. The difference between the two data sets indicates the incidence of repeaters (pupils repeating a school year).



The graph shows those who are literate as a share of the population aged 15 and above. The values are based on the share of those who can read and write, broken into four age groups: 15–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45 and above. The survey question was “Can the household member read and write?”

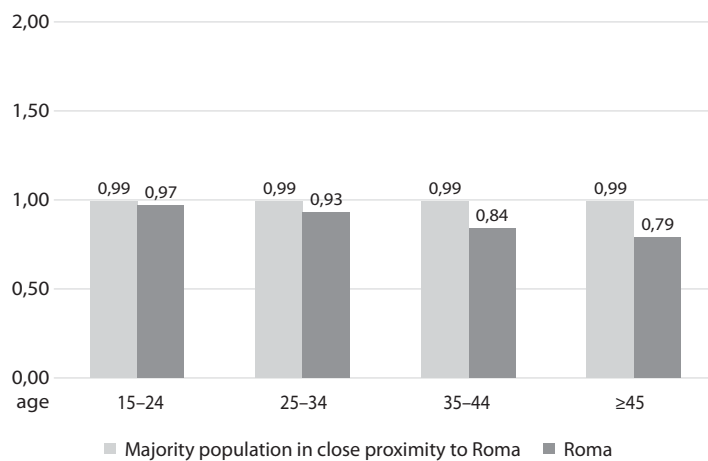
Gender equality and empowerment of women

Serbia: Ratios of girls to boys by education level



The graph shows the distribution of “yes” answers to the question “Does the household member still attend school or training?” broken down by sex and age for the three “school-age groups”: primary (7–15 years old), secondary (16–19) and tertiary (above 20).

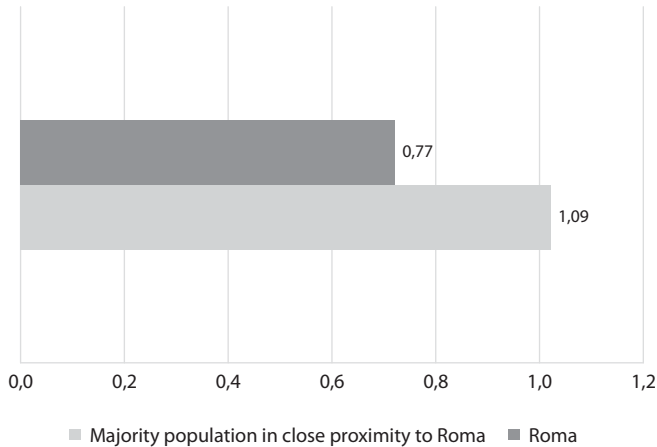
Serbia: Ratios of literate females to males by age groups



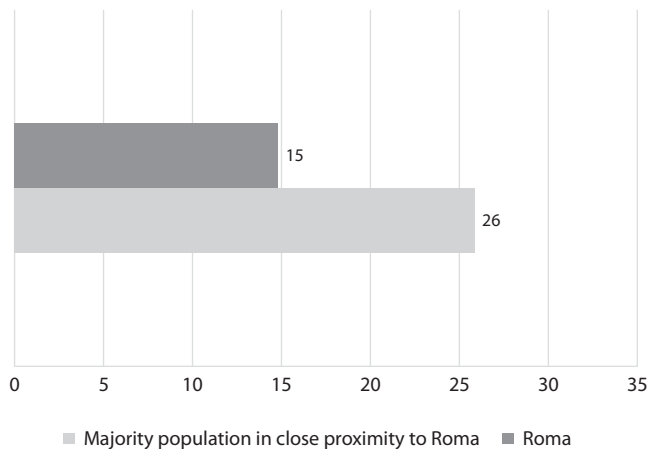
The graph outlines the “yes” answers to the question “Can the household member read and write?” broken down by sex and major age group.

Housing and living conditions

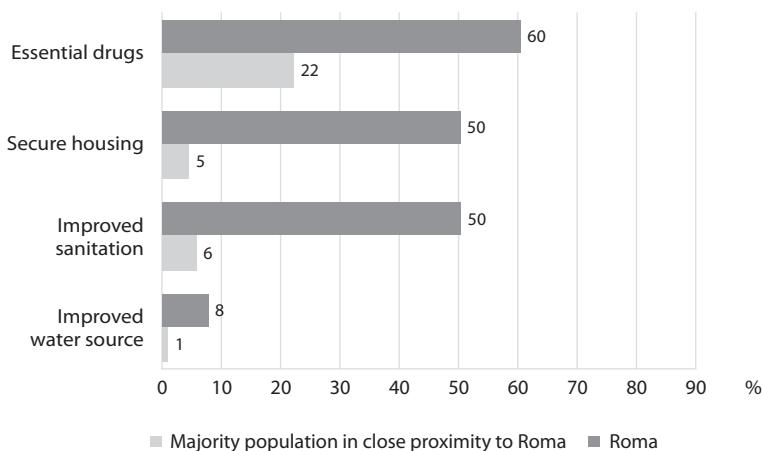
Serbia: Rooms per household member



Serbia: Square meters per household member



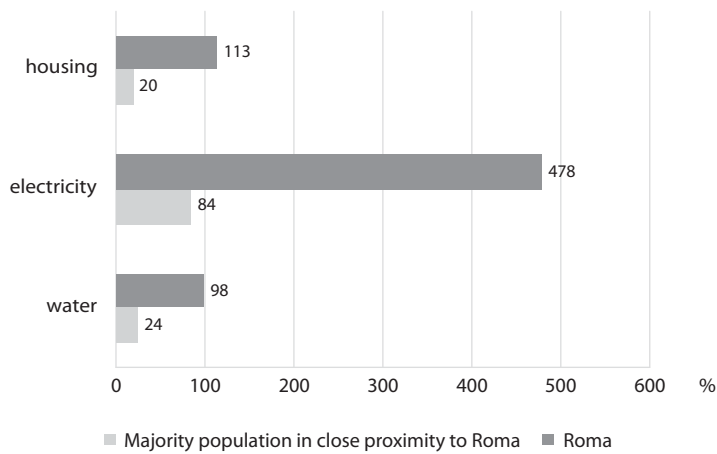
Serbia: Shares of the population not having access to:



The two graphs show how much living space Roma and non-Roma household members use. The first graph is based on data derived from the question "How many rooms does your household have in the dwelling you currently occupy?" The second one is based on "How many square meters is your current dwelling?" Data per capita in both are calculated using the total number of household members.

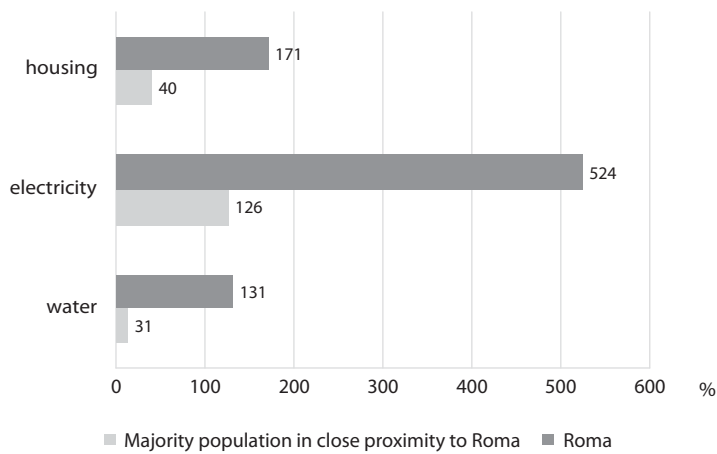
The "Essential drugs" section of the graph shows the share of households responding "Yes" to the question "Were there any periods in the past 12 months when your household could not afford to purchase medicines prescribed to/ needed by a member of your household?" "Secure housing" shows the share of those living in "ruined houses" or "slums". "Improved sanitation" shows the share of households not having a toilet or bathroom inside the house. "Improved water source" shows the share of the population living in households not having piped water inside the dwelling or in the garden/yard.

Serbia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures

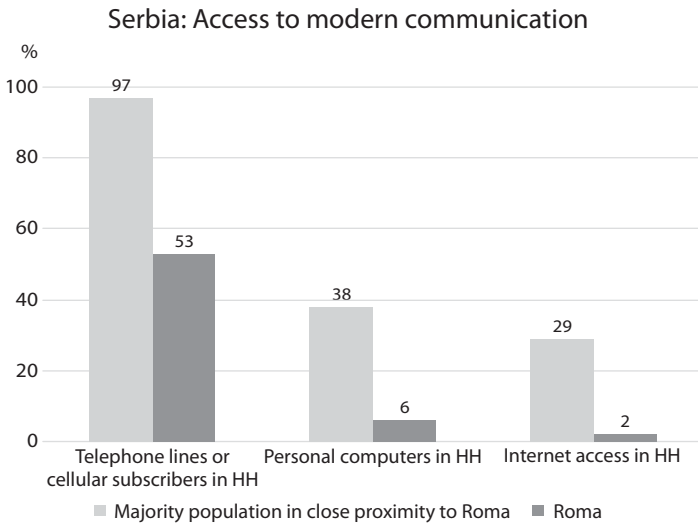


The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household expenditures.

Serbia: Outstanding payments as a share of monthly household expenditures



The graph shows the outstanding monthly payments for water, electricity and housing as a share of monthly household income.



The first dataset in the graph shows telephone lines or cellular subscribers per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have in your household a telephone or a mobile phone in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people. Households having both a telephone and a mobile phone were counted once. The second and third parts of the graph show the number of personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 people. The values are based on the number of “yes” answers to the question “Do you have here in your household a computer/internet connection in functioning order?” and recalculated for a sample of 100 people.

Glossary

Equivalised Household Income (OECD equivalence scale)

This refers to the adjustment coefficient used to equate households of different size and composition, so that per capita income and expenditure comparisons are relevant. This adjustment is based on the assumption that certain household expenditures are independent of the number of household members. OECD equivalence scales assign the coefficient 1 to the first household member, 0.5 to the second household member, and 0.3 to a child when calculating per capita household income. Thus, applying equivalence scales to poverty analysis, a three-member household with one child earning a total of €1200 would be treated as having per capita household income = $1200/(1+0.5+0.3)$ = €666.7 (and not €400 as would be derived from an unweighted average).

Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI is a composite index designed to complement the narrow income-based measure of poverty. The index consists of three components (health, education and income) that aim to capture a broader field of human development. The three components cover three essential choices: to live a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to resources ensuring a decent standard of living.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Refugees are people who have left their country of origin because of the threat of persecution for religious, political, racial or other reasons. Internally displaced persons are those who have lost their home and have moved to another part of their country because of persecution or armed conflict.

Labour Force/Working Age Population

The labour force is defined as those of working-age who are seeking employment or are already employed. The working-age population is defined as the population aged 15 and above and includes people who are disabled, retired, in school or involved in housekeeping. Since these groups are not seeking employment, they are excluded from the labour force but remain part of the working-age population.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) originate from the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State, and adopted at the Millennium Summit at UN Headquarters, New York in September 2000. The eight UN Millennium Development Goals are intended to help governments take action to improve the condition of poor and marginalized groups in the areas of poverty, education, gender, health and the environment.

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)

The term NGO refers to any non-profit organization that is independent of the government. NGOs are typically organizations that depend, fully or in part, on charitable donations and voluntary service. The World Bank defines NGOs as, 'private organizations that relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development' (Operational Directive 14.70). Although the NGO sector has become increasingly professionalized over the last two decades, principles of altruism and voluntarism remain key objectives.

Poverty Gap

A measure to show the average distance of persons or households below a poverty line. It is defined as the average distance of individuals (or households) in poverty from the poverty line (however defined), as a percentage of the poverty line. The poverty line is derived from the income or expenditures of households.

Poverty Rate

The percentage of the population with daily incomes or expenditures below an established threshold.

Purchasing Power Parity Expressed in US Dollars (PPP\$)

PPP\$ is a way of expressing the value of GDP or income from different countries (usually with different price structures) through the use of a common denominator allowing international comparisons. The need for such a common denominator comes from the fact that the price proportions of different goods in a consumer basket differ from country to country, hence converting the national currency values to US dollars using a standard exchange rate is not sufficient to reflect different real costs of living across countries. The GDP value expressed in PPP\$ reflects what the real income of the population would be if the price structure in the country were similar to those in the United States.

The income and expenditures data obtained during the survey were converted in PPP\$ using the following rates:

The value of 4.3\$ PPP in national currencies	
Bulgaria	2.5542
Croatia	17.6816
Kosovo	149.4508
Hungary	576.7848
Macedonia	81.2012
Romania	55733.074
Serbia and Montenegro	149.4508

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, September 2004

For the Czech Republic the value 180 CZK was used, corresponding to 11 US\$ per day poverty line from 2001 (Human Development Report 2004). Montenegro and Kosovo were transformed into Dinars in order to apply the indicated threshold.