For additional information and contact

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WHAT IS ROMOMATTER?

RoMoMatteR is a transnational project that tackles gender discrimination by empowering Roma girls. The project supports Roma girls in making informed decisions about their lives and reaching their full potential.

RoMoMatteR involves Roma communities, civil society groups, local institutions and scientific communities from Bulgaria (NNHM, TSA), Romania (PCRM, UB), Spain (FAGA, KAMIRA, USE, UA), Hungary (HLMDI) and UK (BNU).

The project is funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020) and will be implemented during 2019 and 2020.

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

Roma teenage motherhood is deeply embedded in a tangle of multiple discriminations. It also impoverishes the lives of women and girls, increases the risks of mental and physical health, making them vulnerable to domestic violence, school dropout and precarious employment.

International organizations have called attention to how public protection systems are failing to provide culturally-tailored services to address sexual and reproductive health inequities suffered by Roma women and girls.

SOLUTIONS

- To map psychosocial, cultural and contextual living conditions that influence teenage motherhood among Roma girls living in communities with a higher probability of early marriages.
- To map community assets, narratives and evidence to empower Roma girls’ mattering linked to reproductive justice.
- To develop critical thought concerning Roma girls’ mattering linked to reproductive justice.
- To develop recommendations to empower Roma girls’ mattering linked to reproductive justice.
- To develop recommendations to empower Roma girls’ mattering linked to reproductive justice.
- To promote the process, implementation and impact of participatory action research through empowerment evaluation.
- To disseminate research findings and promote knowledge transfer.

HOW

- Building a local coalition between partners and key community stakeholders in each geographical context (Sofia, Bucharest, Seville, Alicante).
- Mapping Roma girls’ community assets, narratives and evidence linked to reproductive justice.
- Creating a toolbox for participatory action research to empower mattering linked to reproductive justice and selecting and training facilitators in each setting.
- Selecting Roma girls for the implementation of participatory action research and building collaboration among significant adults in Roma girls’ lives.
- Developing critical thought on reproductive justice and developing recommendations and training guidelines on the topic.
- Building the capacity of Roma girls to advocate for their goals and aspirations.
- Dissemination and knowledge translation of project results.

EXPECTED RESEARCH RESULTS

- IDENTIFICATION of the psychosocial patterns that may drive Roma girls to make the decision of becoming mothers from an early age as well as the impacts of such decision on their lives.
- DEEPAANALYSIS of how discriminatory norms and inequality mechanisms still affect Roma girls’ decisions of becoming mothers and manage motherhood.
- DEEPER KNOWLEDGE on how Roma girls combine the development of individual, relational, and collective strengths (i.e. knowledge, skills, networking) using available resources in their communities.

EXPECTED COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- CREATION OF SPACES in which Roma girls along with stakeholder facilitators will identify their needs, develop their strengths, design actions, implement, evaluate and provide feedback.
- COMMUNITIES fostering a sense of community and promoting the values of reproductive justice in public services and community resources, helping to promote and value girls as contributors to their communities as more than mothers.
- EMPOWERED GIRLS reverse the discrimination suffered by Roma girls due to teenage motherhood through an empowering process that links Roma girls’ mattering to reproductive justice.