Empowering At-Risk Romani Girls' Mattering through Reproductive Justice

Agenda of the Final Conference
14th, 15th, and 16th June 2021

Please sign up for the conference here

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Empowering At-Risk Romani Girls' Mattering through Reproductive Justice
Final Conference Agenda

Background

RoMOMatter is a transnational project that aims to tackle gender discrimination by empowering Romani girls to envision their own futures and equipping them with psychological, psychosocial and community strengths to safely get married, and choose motherhood, only if and when they are ready. More than 100 Roma girls took part from Bulgaria, Romania and Spain, with the support of their families, communities and researchers during 2019-2021. The International Conference marks the final phase of the project, with the target of involving all RoMOMatter participants to present the project’s progress and commit to advocacy, dissemination and sustainability to support Roma girls’ dreams. See image below from the RoMOMatter Infographic:

Evidences highlight the relevance of moving from sexual and reproductive health and rights paradigms to new approaches focused on sexual and reproductive justice. This entails placing civil society and the communities themselves at the forefront.

COVID-19 prioritized reproduction as it increased inequalities on gender, health and social spheres among Romani girls and their communities. These circumstances were acknowledged during RoMOMatter project, when several girls dropped out from the activities to take care of their youngest sisters and brothers, to oversee housework or even to get married.

RoMOMatter in times of COVID-19 reinforced the idea that we, researchers, and institutions, shouldn’t be only offering care but rather defending citizenship rights by creating spaces for Romani communities to raise their own voices. The way in which researchers and communities are producing knowledge to confront the new realities, overcoming the impact of the pandemic on the most impoverished families is a critical issue that must be addressed.
RoMOMatter’s Final Conference must take stock of what has been done, offering spaces for debate, and promoting critical reflection, while developing and reaching consensus on new structures, networks or initiatives that follow this direction. It is as important to share:

- What we did versus what was planned?
- What could we not do because of the pandemic?
- Adaptation process during COVID-19: The multiple roles of researchers and communities
- Emerging needs and priorities
- New ways of doing we have discovered that are necessary
- Strategies and methodologies we have discovered or now obsolete
- Actions we have not known how to do because we lacked resources, skills and competences to do them
- Challenges and opportunities of researchers-community partnerships

**Objectives**

The final conference will present the whole project’s progress on linking Romani girls’ mattering to reproductive justice. The conference will have three main actions:

1. Girls will present their dreams—expectation for their lives—and recommendations for pursuing them.
2. Community partners, facilitators, and other local actors will present their challenges accompanying girls, best practices and provide recommendations.
3. Researchers will present the key results in order to influence through advocacy, sustainability and dissemination.

The COVID-19 impact and how the new reality will affect Romani girls in terms of new opportunities and challenges will be addressed across these three actions.

This event will also provide a focused forum for discussion of results of other complementary studies, conceptual analyses, future roadmaps, etc., and to decide and formalize the best ways for transferring project results

**Structure**

When we were designing RoMOMatter, the final conference was envisioned as a great event for all of us to meet and widely disseminate the work that we—girls, families, communities, and researchers—had carried out for two years. All of us planned to meet in Pecs (Hungary) to celebrate and tell European authorities what girls need to thrive and have a dignified life. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has obligated us to change the venue and structure of the final conference but has not broken our commitment for advocating for a prosperous future for Romani girls.
The final conference will ensure that there is time for reflecting, sharing the work done, critical analysis, and planning for the future. It will also provide opportunities to compare with other experiences and celebrate what we have achieved. To accomplish this, the conference will utilize several media (i.e., online vs. face to face and recorded vs. live) and three target audiences (i.e., girls, community organizations and scholars) in three different periods (i.e. pre-conference, conference, and post-conference) as shown in the figure below.

(1) **Pre-conference.** A series of pre-recorded materials will be prepared and sent to the Coordinating Team and posted on the website. The materials should be available with plenty of time before the conference in order for all those involved to have access and time to prepare for the discussions during the live conference. The pre-conference products will also be used for advocacy and dissemination during the other periods.

(2) **Conference.** The three conference days will be live on Zoom and hosted by HLDMI partners. Pre-recorded materials from the pre-conference should be reviewed, presentations prepared and used most of the time for discussion.

(3) **Post-conference.** The post-conference is meant for activities related to participation in academic conferences, and any other activity for dissemination, advocacy, and sustainability, including the submission of a new proposal.

To clarify, we have provided some examples of activities which will be implemented during these different periods.

In pre-conference sessions with girls, families and significant adults, a face-to-face session with girls on each local context may be conducted to record products such as the girls singing or performing a theater. Meanwhile, other activities can be conducted using an online format – i.e. girls recording TikTok videos, facilitators preparing presentations for the conference, etc.
The in-conference sessions will be held on an online format. If conditions allow it, groups can reunite face-to-face to attend the meeting (girls and facilitators, a small group of researchers…). Recordings from the pre-conference will be used to enhance discussions on the conference sessions, while discussions themselves will be held live via Zoom.

Finally, post-conference sessions may be organized face-to-face (i.e. completing the last steps of the infographic with Roma girls) or online (i.e. partners meeting via Zoom in order to finalize the policy brief).

Host and venue

The final conference will take place in a hybrid structure – via Zoom and partially in-person for the local contexts. According to the Grant Agreement, the final conference is coordinated by the Universidad de Sevilla and hosted by Health Leadership and Management Development Institute (HLMDI) which leads the Health Leaders Partnership with the departments of Public Health and Operational Medicine of the University of Pécs.

Participants

Each partner is encouraged to invite all relevant guests to the conference. The pandemic has brought new actors to the scene, while at the same time uncovering the limitations of others. This has generated new potentials and opportunities that we are not prepared for, new ways of doing that require new actors.

- Girls, mothers, and other significant adults – Participating Roma girls and their families, as well as key adults from their communities, including members from Local Coalitions.
- Facilitators – Roma women facilitators who have been involved throughout the project.
- Role models – Women who were invited to take part on RoMOMatter activities as role models. Role models who were not able to participate on RoMOMatter activities can also be invited to participate in this Final Conference event.
- Community partners – Members from RoMOMatter community organizations are welcomed to participate. The participation of key actors from other grassroots organizations, policymakers, national health networks, or public health institutions should be encouraged.
- Research partners – Apart from RoMOMatter research partners, the participation the scientific community, including other researchers or research institutions with experience or interested on these matters will be welcomed.

* Please sign up for the conference [here](#)
Dates

- Pre-conference: From now until 13th June.
- In-Conference: 14th (afternoon schedule), 15th and 16th June (morning schedule)
- Post-conference: From 17th to 30th June.

Types of presentations

The conference should ensure that everyone who has been involved in RoMOMatter has space and a voice, even those who have not been able to do so now have an opportunity to share their views. With this in mind, we know that not everyone has the same preferences for telling us about their experience and we must overcome the academic-style presentations as an only option.

We invite everyone to be creative – i.e. by sending us their participation through voice mails, e-mails, videos, stories, songs, games, etc.

To make this possible, the conference will include spaces for formal presentations, round tables, discussion groups, posters, etc. All those who want to tell us about their experiences in person, want to record them, want to send them in advance and want to discuss them afterwards will be guaranteed a space.

Language. The official languages of the conference are Bulgarian, Romanian, Spanish and English. HLDMI will ensure the simultaneous translation.

Resources. At the local level (in person):

- Secure 1-3 venues (depending on each context COVID-19 restrictions)
- Projector and sound
- Computer with camera
- Wi-Fi (please ensure the connection 30 minutes prior to meeting times)
- Zoom
- Snacks/drinks for girls and families on Day 1

Note: Day 1 will have a longer break for the girls to snack/rest between topics.

Deliverable 5.6. Specific documentation to be turned in:

- Invitation & agenda
- Signed presence list. There will be two forms of attendance sheets. (1) The signed attendance sheet to the online conference will be replaced with the participant record provided by the Zoom platform and (2) at the local level a signed attendance sheet will be provided
- Report of the event. Photos, presentations, feedback questionnaires.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls, Families and Significant Adults</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Videos or mixed media</td>
<td>Alicante’s theater, Cordoba song Pre-recorded for website by FWG</td>
<td>Video on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare 1 girl in each context to present dreams/recommendations</td>
<td>Each local context should nominate one girl to present dreams/recommendations during the conference day. Open format.</td>
<td>Presentation during conference day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare questions to ask each other for the live</td>
<td>Facilitators to support girls in developing questions to be used during the live session</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of map/project and create a summary video</td>
<td>AT to create and pre-recorded for website</td>
<td>Presentation during conference day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role models send a short video</td>
<td>Pre-recorded to be played during the break</td>
<td>Video on website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communities Partners, Grassroots Organizations and other Stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Videos from facilitators, community partner, mothers, significant adult, local coalitions</td>
<td>Pre-recorded for website by FWG</td>
<td>Video on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation by Community Partners and Facilitators</td>
<td>Utilizing the template provided by the AT, CP and Facilitators will prepare presentations that include lessons learned, opportunities and recommendation</td>
<td>Presentation during conference day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic and Scholars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Templates to be provided by AT</td>
<td>Presentation during conference day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toolbox</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Available on website</td>
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<tr>
<td>RGPAR Photovoice exhibits</td>
<td>FWG to send photovoice results</td>
<td>Photovoice exhibits on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation results presentation</td>
<td>TSA/US to create and compile templates</td>
<td>Presentation during conference day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Brief</td>
<td>First brief: <a href="#">Available online</a> Second brief: Available on a Google document to be discussed during the conference</td>
<td>Google document shared among partners</td>
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Please sign up for the conference here

RoMOMatter Girls’ Dreams & Recommendations
June 14\textsuperscript{th}, 2021
5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (CET)

**Objective:** RoMOMatter girls from four local contexts will share their experiences, present results and develop recommendations to advocate for their dreams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10’</td>
<td>Welcome and kick-off of the RoMOMatter Final Conference</td>
<td>Manuel García-Ramírez (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30’</td>
<td>Keynote address</td>
<td>Sandra Heredia, Roma leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5’</td>
<td>Roma women testimonies (videos): Yiló Local coalition members Key stakeholders and policymakers</td>
<td><em>Presenter:</em> Daniela E. Miranda (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30’</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>40’</td>
<td>Presentation of dreams and recommendations (1 girl from each context, 10’</td>
<td><em>Moderator:</em> María Jesús Albar-Marín (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20’</td>
<td>Questions and exchange between girls to develop recommendations</td>
<td>Marifé Rodríguez Camacho (<em>FAGA</em>) and Tainara Paulon Protásio (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**RoMOMatter Community Voices and Recommendations**  
**June 15th 2021**  
**11.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. (CET)**

**Objective.** Community partners, facilitators, families, and local coalition share their lessons learned, recommendations and next steps for advocating for Roma girl’s reproductive justice.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5’</td>
<td>Introduction and agenda</td>
<td>Manuel García-Ramírez (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 40’  | Presentation of RoMOMatter results for the FWG (10’ per group) | Marifé Rodríguez Camacho & María Eugenia González Angulo, (*FAGA*)  
Lavinia Fratila (*Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, Romania*)  
María Jesús Fernández Martín & Rafael Santiago (*KAMIRA*)  
Diliana Dilkova, (*National Network of Roma Health Mediators, Bulgaria*) |
| 15’  | See-saw. Balancing mattering of Roma girls in COVID-19 times | Ana Gutiérrez Martínez, (*University of Seville, Spain*)  
Diliana Dilkova, (*National Network of Roma Health Mediators, Bulgaria*) |
| 30’  | Break | |
| 10’  | Exploring non-medical approaches to Roma mental health and reproductive justice | Belén Soto Ponce (*University of Seville, Spain*)  
& Michaela Diodeto (*SdF*) |
| 10’  | The role of girls’ in decision-making: An evidence-based European framework | Daniela E. Miranda, (*University of Seville, Spain*) |
| 40’  | Opportunities for reproductive justice in grassroots movement | *Moderator: Sandra Heredia, Roma leader  
Participants:  
Radost Zaharieva, (*European Public Health Alliance, Roma Health Network*)  
Zoran Bikovski, (*KHAM Delcevo, Macedonia*)  
Iñaki Vázquez Arencón, (*Khetane Spain*)  
José Antonio Jiménez Jiménez, (*Equi-sasstipen-rroma Spain*)* |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5’</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Manuel García-Ramírez (<em>University of Seville, Spain</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10’</td>
<td>RoMOMatter girls advocate for their dreams and recommendations</td>
<td>FWG to provide names of girl in their context who wish to present on the final day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10’  | Presentation of Policy Brief | Chorus presentation  
Emily Felt & Josemi Carrasco, (*University of Alicante, Spain*)  
Marifé Rodríguez Camacho, (*FAGA*)  
Carmen Santiago, (*KAMIRA*)  
Diliana Dilkova, (*National Network of Roma Health Mediators, Bulgaria*)  
Lavinia Fratila, (*Policy Center for Roma, and Minorities, Romania*) |
| 10’  | European policymaker – DG Justice | TBD |
| 15’  | The Role of Mattering in the Well-Being of Young People | Isaac Prilleltensky, (*School of Education and Human Development, University of Miami*) |
| 5’   | Closing and farewell | Manuel García-Ramírez, (*University of Seville*) |
## Strengthening Research Partners Collaboration

**Objective.** To share final results and reflections and commit to the next steps for RoMOMatter

**June 16th, 2021.**

**10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (CET)**

### Time | Topic | Presenters
--- | --- | ---
10.00 | Welcome address and introduction. Work package I: Purpose of the meeting and summary of the agenda | Manuel García-Ramírez, *(University of Seville, Spain)*

10.10 | Synthesis of the Work Packages and Lessons Learned |  
WP2. Framing RGPAR to empower Roma girls' mattering linked to reproductive justice | Daniel La Parra, *(University of Alicante; Spain)*

WP3. Implementing RGPAR to empower mattering linked to reproductive justice | Clemence Kopeiken, *(University of Sevilla, Spain)* & Raluca Tomsa, *(University of Bucharest, Romania)*

WP5. Disseminating outcomes and project results | Daniel La Parra, *(University of Alicante, Spain)*

10.45 | Break |  
11.15 | Synthesis of the Work Packages and Lessons Learned |  
WP4. Evaluating RGPAR process, implementation and outcomes | Dena Popova & Petya Zeynelova, *(Trust for Social Achievement, Bulgaria)*

Empowerment Evaluation | 
RoMOMatter results | Lucía Jiménez García & Belén Soto Ponce, *(University of Seville, Spain)*

11.40 | Quality Assurance and Advisory Committee: Final Remarks | Presented by Margaret Greenfields *(Bucks New University, UK)*, also on behalf of the other members of the committee: Istvan Szilard (Chair) & Kia Goolesorkhi *(HLMDI, University of Pécs, Hungary)*, David Ingleby *(University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)* & Belén Soto Ponce *(University of Seville, Spain)*.

12.00 | Break |  
12.30 | Roundtable: Transferring the lessons learned about reproductive justice | *Moderators: Manuel García-Ramírez*

Combatting antigypsyism through reproductive justice: the academic and practitioner divide. *(15’)* | *Presenter: Anca Minescu, PolRom Project University of Limerick, Ireland*
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The lived experience of social injustice: practical wisdom for effective policy and action (15’)</td>
<td><em>Presenter:</em> Jennie Popay, COVID10 Other Front Line Global Alliance (Lancaster University, UK)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Challenges of Roma child participation in health policies (15’)</td>
<td><em>Presenter:</em> Maja Saitovic, (Open Society Foundations)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion (15’)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Keynote address: Global collaboration to advance reproductive justice</td>
<td>Bernadette Nirmal Kumar, <em>Empower School of Health, India and Kathmandu University</em>  <em>President of EUPHA</em>  <em>Co-chair of Lancet Migration</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Final remarks</td>
<td>David Ingleby, <em>(University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)</em></td>
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</table>
**Post Conference**  
*From 17th to 30th June*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RoMOMatter Girls’</th>
<th>Following Steps 21 and 22 of the RoMOMatter RGPAR infographic girls will engage in continued advocacy efforts in their communities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>− <strong>Step 21. Continue organizing local-level advocacy actions.</strong> Develop networking activities such as meetings, media participation, performances, peer-mentoring, etc. with key stakeholder and other Roma girls from their communities.</td>
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<td>− <strong>Step 22. Exit interviews.</strong></td>
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**Community**  
*Community Partners, facilitators and local coalition members should support girls in continued advocacy efforts and identify opportunities for dissemination and sustainability.*

− Dissemination of results to families, community and other relevant stakeholders  
− Identify opportunities for sustainability at the local level  
− New activities and initiatives  
  − FAGA and the continuation of RoMOMatter with workshops between November 2020-June 2021  
− Participate in EU-level advocacy networks  
  − European Public Health Alliance [Roma Health Network](#)  

**Researchers**  
*Research partners will have opportunities to engage, network and disseminate the results of the final conference in various settings as outlined in the grant agreement. Interested colleagues in each of these actions should coordinate follow-up actions.*

− Present at national and international level conferences.  
  − Society for Community Research and Action [biennial conference](#) (June 22-26, 2021)  
  − [COST EuroFamNet](#) webinar: Family support and COVID. Learning and responding from a European perspective. June 18th, 2021, from 12.30 to 14.30 p.m. (CET). [Click here](#) to register.  
  − X International Conference on Psychology and Education (June 14-18, 2021).  
− Finalize and disseminate Policy Brief.  
− Identify opportunities for the sustainability of RoMOMatter in local, national and international policies and programs.  
  − Spain: [JITANAS](#) project  
− Commit to submitting a new proposal with existing partners and include newfound partners.  
− Workshop on “Transferability of RoMOMatter and the methodology of RGPAR for citizen empowerment across non-Roma minorities: The case of the Bolswan Baswara girls”. University of Pecs.  

*Please sign up for the conference* [here](#)