ROMA INCLUSION AND SDG PROGRESS IN GREECE (2023/2024)

GFOD | THE INCLUSIVITY PROJECT

FACTSHEET

KEY CHALLENGES AND INSTITUTIONAL FINDINGS

≠ Persistent Inequality and Antigypsyism

The Roma population in Greece continues to face systemic discrimination and marginalization, known as antigypsyism. According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), over 60% of Roma in Greece experience discrimination, yet only 7% report it. Roma communities are often subjected to segregated housing, poor education access, and exclusion from job markets, justice systems, and essential services.

SDG Alignment and Gaps

Key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impacted by Roma exclusion include:

- SDG 1: No Poverty – Roma children are disproportionately affected, with ~34% living in poverty. Informal settlements lack access to water, electricity, and tenure security.
- SDG 4: Quality Education – School segregation remains despite legal interventions. Enrolment is low; ~57% of Roma children attend preschool.
- SDG 5: Gender Equality – Roma women face layered discrimination, low representation, and early school dropout.
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities – Ethnicity data is missing from national SDG reports, making Roma communities statistically invisible.
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions – Low birth registration and limited legal protections hinder Roma children's access to justice.

Data Limitations (ELSTAT)

Greece's statistical authority, ELSTAT, recognizes major data gaps: - Lack of Roma-specific indicators in national surveys (e.g., EU-SILC) - No disaggregated data on education, housing, gender, and crime - Underreporting of hate crimes and limited access to justice for Roma

STAKEHOLDER ACTIONS AND GOOD PRACTICES

United Nations Recommendations

UNICEF, UNDP, and other agencies urge Greece to: - Utilize the EU Child Guarantee for inclusive housing and employment - Ensure non-segregated, inclusive schooling with data tracking - Promote gender-responsive services for Roma women - Register all children at birth and provide civil documentation

Civil Society and NGO Contributions

NGOs like ARSIS, ActRom, and Roma Civil Monitoring highlight critical needs and best practices:

- Housing (SDG 1): 50% of Roma face social exclusion; informal settlements must be upgraded with legal tenure.
- Education (SDG 4): Training for educators and Roma-led policy design are vital. Sampanis v. Greece highlights ongoing segregation.
- Gender (SDG 5): The Empowerment Project (EEA Grants) provided 2,000 counseling sessions and economic support to Roma women.
- Justice (SDG 16): Mobile registration campaigns, JustRom-style legal clinics, and Roma-led complaint platforms are recommended.

Conclusion: Antigypsyism is widespread, yet unreported. Roma girls face early dropout and forced engagements, and unregistered births lead to legal invisibility. The Roma Strategy lacks a monitoring mechanism, preventing meaningful SDG progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

Monitoring and Evaluation (KPIs)

Greece lacks transparent KPI tracking. Existing indicators are not disaggregated by ethnicity or gender. Recommendations include: - Publish baseline and annual Roma-specific SDG indicators - Integrate disaggregated KPIs into ELSTAT's SDG reports - Involve Roma civil society in indicator design and monitoring - Leverage EU funds (ESF+, Child Guarantee) for data and implementation

Cross-Institutional Actions

Area	Recommended Action Point
Data	Require ethnicity-disaggregated data; publish Roma-specific SDG indicators
Education	End school segregation; include Roma in early childhood planning
Gender Equality	Invest in targeted Roma women programs; disaggregate gender data
Justice	Launch legal identity campaigns; provide legal aid and redress mechanisms
Governance	Empower Roma CSOs; tie EU funds to measurable inclusion benchmarks

Path Forward to 2030

To ensure Roma are not left behind in the 2030 Agenda, Greece must transition from policy declarations to measurable action: - Close data gaps - Enforce anti-discrimination laws - Invest in inclusive infrastructure - Build accountability through community participation and transparent reporting.