

**Discrimination of Roma
in Education:
Review exercise**

Aleksandar Baucal
abaucal@f.bg.ac.rs

Context

Discrimination of Roma related to access and quality of education is widely recognized

Lot of examples, no wider picture

Main obstacle: no data **or** not enough data **or** data are invisible (inaccessible? hidden?)

In such context, “real” monitoring is not possible

Without data and monitoring system, we can use only **estimations** by those who are

Purpose of the review

The purpose is **NOT:**

- To blame countries
- To compare countries
- To rank countries

The purpose is:

- To give opportunity to Ministries to share with other data and estimates that are in basis of policies and practice
- To map out different forms of discrimination
- To identify countries that share issues

Making an instrument: DRiE questionnaire

DRiE: **D**iscrimination of **R**oma in **E**ducation
Questionnaire

Enlist different forms of discrimination of Roma in
Decade countries (based on previous experience
and reports)

For each define small set of questions targeting
some aspects related to form of discrimination

Collect more detailed information on one practice
considered by informants as good one

What is considered as a form of discrimination?

Any form of unequal treatment of Roma in education...practices that make others “more equal” than Roma

It does not include de jure discrimination (forms of unequal treatment inbuilt into legal regulations)

Three domains: access, quality of education, educational outcomes

Achievements (outcomes) gap: is it a form of discrimination?

From one perspective it might not be form of discrimination by itself:

- Lower achievements of Roma might exists even when education would treat Roma children in the same way like other children (because of factors beyond of control of education)

But, there are two reasons to include achievements gap on the list:

- Educational outcomes are ultimate goal

Some troubles with questionnaire

Distributed in very particular part of year

Lengthy

Not distributed to MoE properly

The questionnaires needs to be cross checked by
Ministries before distribution

Answers were based on legal regulation (if it is
legally banned it does not exist)

For some forms of discrimination question

whether it is a form of discrimination was posed

Received responses

	MoE	NGO
Macedonia		*
Montenegro	*	*
Slovenia	*	
Serbia	*	*
Albania	*	
Hungary	*	
Romania		*

Some insights from the first analysis

Forms that hit highest number of Roma: according to MoEs

- **Roma history and culture** is not included in the curriculum and textbooks or it is included in a way that reinforce negative stereotypes and discrimination
- Roma children are overrepresented in the short, **vocational streams** of the secondary education

Forms that hit lowest number of Roma: according to MoEs

- **Lower quality of preschool education** for Roma children
- Segregation of Roma in different school classes (so called

Some insights from the first analysis

Forms that hit highest number of Roma: according to GOs

Roma history and culture

Roma students and parents are disproportionally less involved in available forms of student or parents' **participation** in the compulsory education

Barriers for **enrolment in preschool education**

Forms that hit lowest number of Roma: according to GOs

Segregation of Roma in different school classes (so called "**Roma classes**") within regular compulsory education

Some insights from the first analysis

ggest improvement: according to MoEs

Lack of **textbooks and teaching materials** for Roma

Harassment of Roma by peers and teachers based on their Roma identity

Wrongful assignment to special education

Least improvement: according to MoEs

Roma children are overrepresented in the short, **vocational streams** of the secondary education

Disproportional **drop out** of Roma students from the compulsory education

Some insights from the first analysis

ggest improvement: according to NGOs

Lower enrolment rate in the post-compulsory education

Barriers for school enrolment of Roma

Least improvement: according to NGOs

Roma students and parents are disproportionately less involved in available forms of student or parents' **participation** in the compulsory education

Lower quality of education for Roma in regular compulsory education

Roma student achievements at the end of the compulsory education is lower compared to non Roma students

Some insights from the first analysis

NGOs estimation about scope of discrimination is less positive than MoEs one

In average MoEs estimate that **30-50%** of Roma children are victims of different forms of discrimination

...And NGOs average estimation is **50-70%**

MoEs estimation about improvement is somewhat more positive than NGOs one

In average MoEs estimate that **large improvement** was made in 2005-2008 period

...and NGOs average estimation is **very small**

improvement

Next steps

Collect other questionnaires

Workshop in April (as a part of preparation for May Conference)

- To prepare together with experts nominated by Ministries set of instruments for monitoring of discrimination in education

May Conference: proposed set of instruments will be discussed and each country would decide how it will be used