Opinions on the economic integration of Roma in Romania

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Abstract
Roma integration is more than a matter of social inclusion, having a positive economic impact. In many countries, Roma represent a significant and growing percentage of school-age population and future workforce. Effective policies to labour activation and individualized services and support available for Roma who seeks a job are crucial to allow Roma to assert their human capital and to actively participate on equal terms in the economy and society.

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The Roma community in Romania is the second largest ethnic minority after Hungarians, according to official census data. The reported number of Roma at the last census was growing. If in 2011 there were 619,007 people declared themselves (3.25%), the 2002 census said they were 535,140 (2.5%) and the 1992 census 401,087 Roma in Romania were declared (1.8%). Unofficial sources (Roma representatives, politicians and researchers) estimates that the number of Roma is much higher, the figures were between 1.5 and 2.8 million people.

The social perception of ethnic minorities is built according to the manner in which members of some ethnic minorities participating in the operation of the company, the type of relationship they maintain with others. Obviously frequently involved in building this perception prejudices and stereotypes. Scientific analyzes define the Roma population as a population at high risk of poverty and social exclusion. This is due to a number of factors, including the lack of legal identity and low education levels seem essential. Lack of identity documents is the immediate consequence of inability of citizens' rights. At the same time determine, among other factors, the impossibility of attending school or other educational institutions. Deficiency of education has immediate consequences as blocking access to qualifications other than the traditional crafts and a weak legal participation in economic activities. Naturally, income Romani families are very small. They are joined by poor housing conditions, low access to health care,
high level of mortality, low life expectancy etc. Solutions for Roma must be considered in function of these crucial issues.
Also problem solving Roma must take account of the 10 Common Basic Principles agreed at European level on Roma inclusion: (15)
1. Constructive, pragmatic and non-discriminatory
2. Explicit but not exclusive targeting of the Roma minority
3. The intercultural approach
4. Targeting mainstreaming of all the key areas to society
5. Awareness of the gender dimension
6. Transfer of evidence-based policies
7. Using the tools provided by EU Member States
8. The involvement of regional and local public authorities
9. Involvement of civil society
10. The active participation of Roma

The causes socio-economic situation prevailing in Roma communities sometimes differ; some specialists, especially those involved in the movement for the emancipation of Roma consider Roma exclusion and discrimination as a causal factor of the existing situation, others bring existing reality and on behalf of (self) marginalization and social system.
In the years of transition the majority population towards the Roma prejudices was numerous but they are diminished by the day. Regarding the presence of Roma in the labor market, although some still approve or apply different treatment towards them (especially those with low education and the elderly) can appreciate that the Romanian society ethnic tolerance increases and decreases discrimination in the Roma population. However, the evidence is that, as citizens of other ethnicities poor, lack of access of Roma in the labor market is the main cause of the social status of the Roma. To argue this idea, we'll help those data that reveal different studies.

Of the 619,007 Roma censuses in 2011, the vast majority has no qualification (approximately 79.4%), more than half do not have a job (about 45.2%). Those skilled in traditional occupations represent about 3.9%, those skilled in modern professions is 16.1%, the number of Roma employees is approximately 22.1%, employers 0.8%, 16.9% own business.

In recent years, several studies have been conducted about complex problems of the Roma, but most ideas proliferated by the authors converge on the idea that the current poverty in Roma communities is primarily derived from their weak economic participation. Roma modern professions were acquired through formal education and training system or in the workplace. The fact that modern occupations (construction - bricklayer, painter, locksmith, mechanic, welder, driver, tailor etc.) are more common in urban than in rural areas is explained by adaptation to the specific economic Roma population thereof and that it is slightly more educated, by going through several steps in the formal education system.
Traditional trades’ occupations are those which Roma have had over time, making it specific. In most cases, jobs are closely related nations Roma which includes those who practice them. Their main feature is that it does not involve formal training but is transmitted from generation to generation. The largest share in these trades has fiddlers, coppersmiths, smiths, brick makers and painters. Traditional trades occur mostly in rural areas. Roma in rural areas who practice traditional crafts are kettle makers, musicians and benefactor’s carts, and those areas are tinsmiths, silversmiths and musicians. Two trades are present both in rural and urban areas are brick maker and fiddlers.
The profession of farmer occupation itself does not require prior qualification systematic, yet only a small fraction of Roma own land and therefore they are not farmers in the ordinary sense of the word, few work full experience with farming. They are rather agricultural workers participating in the execution of certain activities involving a high workload. According ICCV, 34% of Roma have no qualifications (14%) are farmers and 5% are day laborers. Modern qualifications meet only 37% of cases and 10% of traditional
Roma. Although between residence are not differences in the skills of the Roma, the situation is significantly differentiated by gender: men Roma are qualified in a higher proportion than women, women share without items (37%) is significantly higher than men (15%). Attitudes toward formal education, a certain isolation of such traditional communities have led to a rejection attitude of many modern professions even among younger generations of Roma. While traditional jobs are less present in younger generations than in the adult, they continue to be overrepresented in young compared to the rest of young Roma (the situation is characteristic especially those who live in compact communities Roma). Obviously, this is due largely attitudes towards formal education.

Despite promoted policies and programs, both at national and European level, social exclusion, marginalization and discrimination against Roma is a current reality, far from being eliminated. EU-MIDIS survey carried out in 2008 in seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe showed that "on average, one in two Roma surveyed for EU-MIDIS was discriminated against because of ethnicity in the last 12 months", the share of those discriminated against in 12 months ranging from a maximum of 64% in the Czech Republic and 25% in Romania. In Romania the most common areas of discrimination were registered in private services (14%), in contact with medical and sanitary staff care units (11%) and when searching for a job or at work (9%).

However, the report stresses that "EU-MIDIS survey shows that discrimination against Roma is reported in an insignificant extent. Officially recorded incidents of discrimination reveal only regarding the real extent of discrimination against Roma."

The perception of Roma in Romania on the extent of discrimination (in Romania) based on ethnicity shows that 42% consider this phenomenon as very or fairly widespread in while 36% say that this type of discrimination is rare or very rare and only 12% say there. In the 2009 presidential report "Risks and Social Inequities in Romania" shows that "Roma minority from Romania faces two specific risks - one of which affects the entire population, and the second only a segment. On the one hand, all directly or indirectly Roma face discrimination. The identity of Roma / Gypsy continues to be a stigma. On the other hand, a disproportionately large segment of the Roma population living on the periphery of contemporary society - especially in terms of participation in organizations to go to school as a child, as a young student, or as an employee in adult life. " This second element is a massive source of blocking or limited success of initiatives, social economy in Roma communities, especially when projects are not correlated with active measures to prevent discrimination. Roma feel extremely discriminated against in employment, especially employment.

Research Roma Inclusion Barometer (RIB) 2006 showed that on a scale from -100 to 100 Index prevailing opinion, Roma is placed on value while the corresponding value in the national sample was -10.

Most data show that the participation of Roma in the labor market and their professional skill level is far below the average national level. Because of the low level of qualification, but also barriers arising from social exclusion, a large part of the Roma activities on their own, most of which are in the informal sector. These activities are subsistence rather unreliable and fluctuating seasonal time speculating marginal niches of the economy (such as trade Welcome, recovery and recycling of materials etc.). According to a report published in 2009.43 "56% of all people employed Roma work in the informal sector, compared to 15% of the employed persons of Romanian origin and 12% of other ethnicities." Also "force participation rate Roma employment is much smaller than the entire population - in 2007, 36.3% of all Roma people, compared with 46.4% of the total 44, with an extremely low activity rate (28%) for Roma women."

Data from research UNDP / World Bank / European Commission shows that the most
important source of income for Roma is the earnings from employment (31%), while the share allocations for children (23%), pensions (19%), social transfers (14%), revenue from sources other than employment (8%) and remittances (money sent home from abroad - 3%). Significant differences compared to non-Roma population recorded especially in terms of earnings pensions (51%) and wages (36%).

The Roma population's education level is very low compared to the overall population: less than a third of Roma children attend kindergarten preschool (37%), while almost two thirds (63%) of non-Roma children participating in preschool.

Data UNDP/ World Bank/ European Commission for Romania shows that the share of the Roma population 16 years and over who is literate is 21% - 10 times higher than non-Roma. Although the differences are blurring least in terms of young population (16-24 years), though their share among Roma is 17% - approx. 6 times higher than non-Roma youth. If the non-Roma population differences in literacy rates between men and women are not significant (1%), the Roma population women have a noticeably lower rate, differences from men is up to 9% for households 16. 25% of primary and middle school children (7-15 years) are not enrolled in formal education, while the percentage of non-Roma who participates is only 2%. Analysis by gender shows a significant difference: if the share of non-Roma boys participating in compulsory education is 4% lower than that of girls, the Roma trend is reversed, the percentage of Roma girls participating in the compulsory education 5% lower than that of boys.

The situation is worsened significantly when analyzing post-secondary education participation (16-19 - vocational and high school), where only 23% of Roma participate - nearly 4 times less than the non-Roma population (83%). In this case, the differences between boys and girls are similar to those of primary and secondary education.

The average number of years of education to the population of 25-64 is double when compared to non-Roma Roma. An average level of education of 5.45 years in the Roma population cannot secure employment than dominant in unskilled or low skilled and day laborers (as seen otherwise and analyze occupations), which leads to reduced earnings and consequently poverty risk / poverty increased. Roma women have on average 1.5 years less education than men, while the non-Roma there is a slight difference (0.15 years) for the benefit of women.

Young people (16-24 years) recorded an average number of years of education than the population 25-64 years both Roma and non-Roma's, but the differences between these two groups still remain, the ratio being about 1:2. A significant positive aspect, however, is recorded in terms of educational differences between boys and girls (the Roma population) which fades very much (only 0.24 years for boys). The situation of Roma appears in a clearer light, and when we look at the highest level of education attained. Thus, the population of 25-64 years, 61% of Roma has 8 classes unfinished, while the non-Roma is 7 percent or less. Another 30% have completed only 8 years and 9% have graduated from a vocational school / high school.

Socio-economic exclusion of a structural nature and frequent discrimination coming from the majority population and the authorities (be they police officers, law enforcement agents or politicians, senior), therefore condemning the everyday life of Roma. This is not the case of Romania, but is found in all EU Member States, both new ones where Roma traditionally living and the old ones which were formed more recently Roma communities being favored and the right to free circulation.

This European scale of the problem, coupled with the lack of effectiveness of most of the measures developed at national level made it imperative to adopt solutions at EU institutions. The recent European Strategy for Roma Inclusion is part of this logic, providing inter alia for certain targets for Roma integration and a "solid monitoring mechanism", conducted by the European Commission to rely on clear and common criteria to measure concrete results. However,
this strategy is *avant tout* a framework for coordination of national strategies; Member States are those which have the primary responsibility to implement various policies and hence in ensuring the social integration of Roma. If these measures are primarily aimed at eliminating structural discrimination against Roma it must be noted that full integration of the Roma cannot be achieved without considering that each person will learn to regard the Roma as members of his community and citizens with equal rights. Both internationally and in Romania, minority Roma population is one of the most vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion from the labor market and recorded occupancy rates substantially lower than the figures available to the majority population. This is due primarily to the low level of education and lack of professional qualifications, but prejudice and discrimination plays an important role in social and economic exclusion of Roma.

However, Roma are mostly employed in the informal sector or households, and thus not contribute not benefit from social security. For many Roma families, social benefits and allowances for raising children are the main sources of income. Public policies for Roma inclusion in the labor market have not proven so far, as well as any other measures in other areas, sectorial nature of interventions not cover the complexity of the problems in Roma communities facing multiple vulnerabilities. Considering, on the one hand, many economic and social problems faced by Roma communities, and on the other hand, many examples of social enterprises operating around the globe, the idea of applying the principles of social economy as a strategy for diversifying the means of winning the existence and promotion of social inclusion in these communities is an attractive and worth careful consideration from the perspective of existing opportunities and obstacles to be overcome. We believe it is necessary to correlate social economy interventions with other active social inclusion measures that relate to education, health, employment, housing and small infrastructure and taking into account the development of social enterprises with substantive issues facing Roma communities where they live.

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