

WP3.3: Report on the 2nd Transnational Meeting of Roma Influencers

Overview

The 2nd Transnational Meeting of Roma Influencers successfully brought together 20 participants from Greece, Ireland, Portugal, and Romania. The meeting provided an important platform for exchanging experiences, reviewing the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns, and reflecting on the challenges surrounding early marriage and early motherhood within Roma communities.

Key Discussions

Participants reported that the awareness-raising campaigns have progressed effectively, with the topic gaining increased recognition as an important social issue across participating countries. However, it was noted that many women continue to feel uncomfortable sharing their personal experiences openly. This reluctance was attributed to social pressure, fear of judgment, and the persistence of deeply rooted cultural norms within their communities.

Despite these challenges, participants expressed strong consensus on the importance of continuing awareness-raising efforts. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to inform and educate younger generations about the social, educational, and personal consequences associated with early marriage and early motherhood.

Challenges Encountered

Several logistical and operational challenges were discussed during the meeting. These included difficulties in adhering to scheduled timelines and participants' hesitation to be photographed or recorded during activities. Such concerns required partners to adjust their planned approaches and implement more flexible methods of engagement.

Nevertheless, all project partners demonstrated adaptability and commitment, successfully overcoming these obstacles and achieving the objectives set for the meeting.

Lessons Learned

The discussions highlighted several important lessons for future project activities:

- The necessity of creating safe and supportive spaces for open dialogue
- The importance of maintaining flexibility in implementation methods
- The potential benefit of organizing separate discussion groups based on age or gender to encourage more open participation

These insights will inform the design and implementation of future awareness-raising actions.



ROMA INFLUENCERS NETWORK/2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507



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Contribution to Policy Recommendations

It was underlined that the perspectives, experiences, and recommendations shared during the meeting will directly contribute to the development of the project’s policy recommendations. These outcomes will be communicated to local and regional authorities, as well as relevant policymakers, ensuring that the voices of Roma communities are represented in decision-making processes.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the active participation and valuable contributions of all attendees. Participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to continuing collaborative efforts toward meaningful social change and to addressing the challenges of early marriage and early motherhood within Roma communities through sustained awareness, dialogue, and advocacy.



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