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Project: “Roma Influencers breaking the circle of early marriages and early motherhood in Roma communities”

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

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Final

Evaluation Report

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I. Introduction

I.1. The evaluation and its objectives

The present report is integrated in the European Project Roma Influencers Network - breaking the circle of early marriages and early motherhood in Roma communities (Grant Agreement n. 2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507) in the framework of the Programme ERASMUS+.

Roma Influencers Network project centres on early marriage and early motherhood in Roma communities and is focused on empowering and awareness-raising of the Roma community, especially women and girls. The main purpose is to suggest ways to change behaviours and attitudes in order to overcome, reduce or eliminate the practice and its harmful impacts.

This evaluation report is part of WP1 – Project Management, led by KLIMAKA (Greece) and implemented by CESIS (Portugal). It constitutes the final evaluation report of the project.

The evaluation process involved the participation of all partners from the four countries that constitute the Consortium and that are involved in the different activities of the project: Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Romania. This represents a total of five entities.

The evaluation has the following **main objectives**:

- To improve the decision-making process concerning the project's implementation.
- To generate information on degree of compliance with the planned activities/deliverables/results.

- To produce information about the fulfilment of the project objectives.
- To produce information about participants and their adherence to the project activities and challenges of change.
- To be aware of the obstacles to implementing the project and, on the other hand, its success factors.
- To understand the impact of the project among partners, direct participants and stakeholders.

The monitoring and evaluation of the project is carried out at three different dimensions: Operationalisation, implementation and Impact.

As for the monitoring of the **operationalisation of the Project**, it covers the:

- Management procedures and the decision-making process in the consortium.
- Dissemination strategies of the Project.
- Partnership building.
- Support from the management leader.

The monitoring of the **implementation of the Project** assesses the:

- Degree of implementation of the activities foreseen in the different WPs.
- Number and characteristics of the recipients of the activities implemented (comparison with initial targets, possible deviations and respective causes).
- Adhesion of the recipients to the activities implemented.
- Identification of any factors that are hindering the fulfilment of activities as planned.
- Success factors to the development of the project.

The **impact** evaluation focuses on the direct outcomes of the project at the level of:

- The partners.

- The recipients of the actions.
- The stakeholders (if any).

All the information collected is based on specific instruments that are sent to the partners.

I.2. The participants and the evaluation process

As in the previous report (2025), all partner organisations were invited to participate in the evaluation process. In addition, the evaluation involved persons who had taken part in the various project activities, either through direct involvement or because they could provide relevant input to the evaluation.

During this final phase of the project, coordination and partnership arrangements were assessed once again, together with the activities implemented since the previous evaluation stage.

Overall, this report draws on information collected through five annexes, which provide the basis for the analysis presented in the following sections.

CESIS is responsible for collecting and analysing the information, as well as for disseminating the evaluation results. The partner entities involved are:

- KLIMAKA (Greece)
- CAIRDE (Ireland)
- CESIS – (Portugal)
- COOPERACTIVA (Portugal)
- SASTIPEN (Romania)

Once again, the evaluation documents were made available online (Google forms) so each person can easily access and respond to the questionnaire. All answers were collected and the information analysed.

Some limitations should be considered when interpreting the findings. Participants and stakeholders were approached by the partner organisations, and the number of responses was limited and unevenly distributed across countries. The findings therefore reflect the views of those who responded and should not be considered representative of all project participants or Roma communities. Furthermore, the evaluation mainly captures satisfaction and perceptions of the project's potential contribution to change. Without longer-term follow-up, it is not possible to establish whether the activities have led to sustained changes in behaviour or reductions in early marriage and early motherhood.

I.3. The schedule of the evaluation process

This report marks the final stage of the evaluation process. As of the date of this report, all planned activities have been completed.

Since July 2025, a wide range of activities have been carried out, involving numerous persons in their implementation. At this stage, their views are being sought on the project, its achievements and its potential longer-term impact.

The activity schedule underwent some changes, which meant that it was not possible to gather feedback from all partners during July 2026. As some activities only took place in September, the evaluation process was not completed until that month. However, CESIS asked the partners to complete their respective evaluation as and when the planned activities were carried out.

This last evaluation also provides an opportunity to reassess certain aspects of the project, particularly coordination and partnership, while gathering additional feedback and evidence. Accordingly, this report includes information from annexes that were not part of the previous report, namely Annexes 8, 9 and 10.

I.4. A brief overview of the activities

This section provides a brief overview of the activities evaluated in this final report.

Training of Roma Influencers

The training of Roma women was one of the project's main challenges, not only in terms of identifying women who had the appropriate profile and were willing to take part in the project, but also in ensuring their continued participation until the end of the training.

This activity was first implemented in 2025, with a total of 25 women taking part. Their profile and assessment of the training were presented in the previous evaluation report.

In May 2026, the partnership faced another major challenge: identifying new women who could take part in a further training cycle, in which the women who had completed the initial training would themselves have a role to play. The Roma Influencers supported and guided the new participants – the New Roma Influencers -, helping them develop the skills and confidence needed to become active influencers in their communities. The training built on the groundwork laid by existing influencers within Roma communities. A total of 26 Roma women participated in this second edition.

National and transnational policy recommendations

The policy recommendations on early marriage and early motherhood were also developed jointly by the entire partnership, resulting in four national reports and one comparative report analysing the information provided by the participating countries.

The four national reports aimed to identify recommendations that could be implemented in different contexts and used by relevant stakeholders, particularly professionals and policymakers. The empowerment of Roma girls and women features prominently in the policy recommendations of all countries, alongside the need for stronger institutional coordination and for interventions based on dialogue and community-led awareness-raising. Education and health also emerge as key areas for intervention.

Awareness-Raising Campaign

The campaigns represented a more ambitious stage in terms of the activities undertaken. The Awareness-Raising campaigns involved the Roma Influencers visiting Roma settlements, where the families had agreed to be filmed and photographed, always with their prior consent. The campaigns also included the production of short videos in which the Roma Influencers discussed issues related to motherhood and early marriage with families, with women playing a central role.

The Roma Influencers carried out these campaigns and acted as agents of social change, promoting a more inclusive approach that gives greater visibility to women's voices. Rather than remaining passive observers of their own social reality, Roma women and girls were encouraged to take on an active role as influencers, raising awareness of early marriage and showing themselves, as well as other women and

girls, that alternative pathways and opportunities can contribute to a better future. This activity was carried out in all 4 countries.

National workshops

Workshops on the topics of early marriage and early motherhood were held in the four partner countries. One workshop was held in each country, except in Portugal, where two workshops were held. These workshops were attended by representatives from local, regional and national authorities, NGOs and various other stakeholders with an interest in this issue. During these sessions, presentations were given on the national research studies and the transnational report on early marriage and early motherhood; short films produced during the awareness-raising campaigns were screened; and opportunities were provided for participants to share ideas, to reflect and present suggestions on how to tackle the phenomenon of early marriage and early motherhood.

Good Practices Guide

Good Practices Guides were developed by each of the four participating countries to identify and highlight effective practices that may contribute to preventing and addressing early marriage and early motherhood. By bringing together good practices that are both feasible and realistic, these guides are intended to serve as practical tools that can be used in different contexts and by different organisations and institutions. They may also provide inspiration for future work by drawing on practices that have been identified as successful.

The national Good Practices Guides were developed around five key questions:

* Why do you consider this practice particularly successful?

* What evidence of results can you share, whether quantitative or qualitative?

* What were the main lessons learned?

* What conditions are necessary to replicate this practice in another context?

* What would be your main recommendation to organisations wishing to implement a similar initiative?

Each country developed its own guide based on these questions. At the end of this process, a Transnational Good Practices Guide was produced, bringing together national practices identified by the partners, as well as European and transnational practices considered relevant to the prevention of early marriage and early motherhood within Roma communities.

The practices included in the Guide are diverse in nature and cover a range of areas, including education programmes, intercultural mediation, health promotion, peer support, participatory research, collaborative governance, the strengthening of Roma organisations, and the development of public policies.

Exhibition / Festival

Alongside the Workshops, the Festivals were among the final activities to take place in the four partner countries. These events were intended to give visibility to the work carried out within the project. They combined an exhibition of the photographic work produced, particularly during the Campaigns, with the screening and dissemination of the videos developed as part of the project.

This enabled a wider audience to become familiar with the work undertaken and, at the same time, to gain greater awareness of a reality that remains insufficiently known.

A transnational documentary film was also produced. It was widely praised and well received, receiving several honourable mentions and nominations, and ultimately winning an award at the *13th International Documentary Festival of Ierapetra 2026*.

This activity was undoubtedly one of those that contributed most significantly to the dissemination and visibility of the project and was also a source of great pride for the entire partnership.

II. Annex 1 - Evaluation of Management and Partnership

This annex aims to evaluate the project coordination and management regarding several aspects, as well as the partnership and the participation of each partner in the activities. This makes it possible to identify the expectations of the partners, the success factors and the obstacles. This evaluation is based on anonymous answers (no identification of the respondent country).

SCHEDULE:

July 2025 and July 2026.

RESULTS IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

In mid-July, Annex 1 was sent to all teams. It was requested one answer per partner entity in a total of 5.

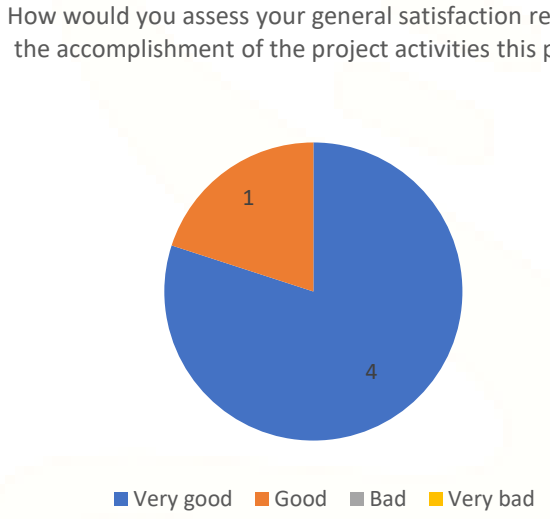
Regarding the **Management** of the project, the results show a general satisfaction within all the partners. The quality of the project coordination and management the appreciation was ***very good*** in all the items under consideration, which means that satisfaction levels remained consistent throughout the project:

	Very good
1. *Communication process with the partners*	5
2. *Decision making process*	5
3. *Clarification of the objectives for the meetings*	5
4. *Overall functioning of the meetings*	5
5. *General support*	5

In relation to the **Partnership** the partners also gave a positive appreciation. All the items under consideration had a ***very good*** evaluation. This is an improvement comparing with the previous report, in which the problem-solving did not achieve full satisfaction amongst all the partner organisations.

	Very good
1. *Communication and coordination between partners*	5
2. *Process of problem-solving*	5
3. *Overall functioning of the partnership*	5
4. *Knowledge of what is the role and what is expected from the organisation*	5

The **participation of each partner**, and more specifically the general satisfaction regarding the accomplishment of the project activities was also evaluated positively.

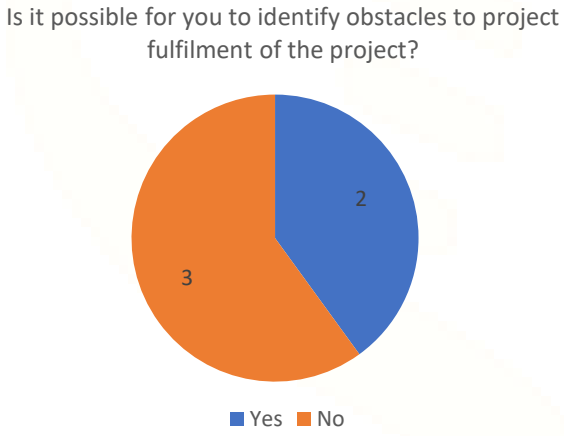


Some partners could identify **success factors** for the project's development. Two have the opposite opinion. However, most of the success factors are related, namely, the

quality of the outputs, the external recognition of the work done and role of all partners.

- Active participation and commitment of all partners.
- High-quality outputs that meet the project's objectives.
- Sustainability of the project results beyond the project's lifetime.
- The different organisations working on this project have expertise in different areas, therefore complemented each other.
- The fact that the project's documentary received media coverage highlights the impact this issue can have and its importance.

Similarly to what happened regarding the success factors, some **obstacles** were identified by two partners to the project's development.



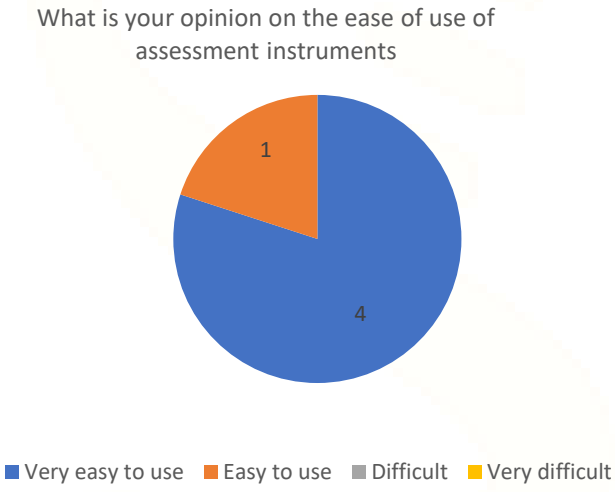
The obstacles identified are mostly Roma women's participation. The public visibility associated with some of the project's activities proved challenging for some teams to manage. Some women were reluctant to have their image displayed or to be recognised by members of their community, as they feared being subjected to derogatory comments. This challenge persisted throughout the project and may

require time to overcome. Also mentioned were some delays in the implementation of certain activities meant that others became dependent on their completion.

- Roma women face significant limitations regarding public visibility when advocating for their rights; their work often has to take place behind the scenes, away from the spotlight. This project required a level of public exposure they were unable to sustain, as they preferred to remain out of the public eye. It was necessary to respect their decision not to appear publicly.

- The timing of some of the activities caused some difficulties in carrying out the subsequent ones.

A last group of questions is related to the **evaluation process** and in **the ease of use of the respective instruments**. Overall, the assessments were very positive, both in relation to the evaluation process itself and to the use of the evaluation instruments. In each dimension only one partner considers the process and the instruments *easy to use.*



SUMMARY

These results demonstrate that KLIMAKA has done a very good job regarding the management of the project in both communication and decision-making process, which translates into a very positive overall assessment.

The partnership is also viewed very positively overall, with particular emphasis on the involvement and commitment of all partners, the collaborative work between institutions, and the sustainability and visibility achieved by the project.

III. Annex 4 – Training of New Roma Influencers - Participants' characterisation and perceptions identification

This annex aims to characterise the new Roma trainees. All four countries carried out this training. It covered a total of 26 new Roma women from the 4 countries involved. The distribution is as follows:

- 6 from Greece
- 10 from Ireland
- 9 from Portugal
- 1 from Romania

This annex aims to characterise the Roma women in terms of age, marital status, number of children, among other factors.

It also sought to understand their opinions regarding their understanding of marriage and motherhood, as well as what aspects are considered more important for them.

Only one woman did not complete the training.

SCHEDULE:

During the training in 2026.

RESULTS:

The next information is regarding the characterisation of the participants, not only in terms of age and marital status, but also to gather opinions on education, early marriage and motherhood.

Who are the participants

In terms of age, most participants, in general, are between 18 and 24 years old (10 women). This is particularly evident in Ireland and Portugal. In Greece, women are mostly over 30 years old, which, together with Portugal, are the countries with the highest number of women in this age group.

	18-24 years	25-29 years	> 30 years
Greece	1	2	3
Ireland	5	3	2
Portugal	3	2	4
Romania	1	0	0
Total	**10**	**7**	**9**

Regarding marital status, almost 70% of the participants (18 women) are cohabiting. Single women were identified only in Ireland, while married women were found only in Greece. None of the participants were widowed.

	Married	Widow	Cohabiting	Single
Greece	4	0	2	0
Ireland	0	0	6	4
Portugal	0	0	9	0
Romania	0	0	1	0
Total	**4**	**0**	**18**	**4**

Most of the women are married or cohabiting and live only with their husbands/partners.

However, in Ireland three women live with their husbands/partners and also with their parents, like the only Romanian woman, and two women in Portugal live also together with their parents-in-law.

Only two women in Ireland live only with their children.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Living with her husband / partner (with or without children)	4	4	7	0	**15**
Living with her parents and husband / partner (with or without children)	1	3	0	1	**5**
Living with her parents-in-law and husband / partner (with or without children)	1	1	2	0	**4**
Living alone with children	0	2	0	0	**2**

Being married/living together, almost all of the women have children (only three married/cohabiting women report not having children).

Regarding the age at which they had children, a considerable number of them (11) became mothers for the first time after the age of 18, which contrasts with the situation of the first group of trainees. This is particularly noticeable in Ireland and Portugal. Nevertheless, five women, 3 in Greece and two in Ireland became mothers at the age of 15 or younger.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
< 15 years	3	2	0	0	**5**
16-17 years	2	2	0	0	**4**
18-20 years	0	4	6	1	**11**
21-24 years	0	0	1	0	**1**
> 25 years	1	0	1	0	**2**
No children	0	2	1	0	**3**

Participant's opinion on marriage and motherhood

One of the topics on which participants were asked for their opinion was marriage and motherhood.

The tables below show that motherhood seems to be more important to Roma women than marriage. A total of 19 women consider motherhood to be very important, while 14 have the same opinion about marriage. These views are in line with those already expressed by Roma women in the previous report.

In the case of Portuguese Roma women, all of them attach the same importance to marriage and motherhood, considering both to be very important in women's lives.

MARRIAGE	**Greece**	**Ireland**	**Portugal**	**Romania**	**Total**
Very important	4	1	9	0	**14**
Important	2	9	0	1	**12**

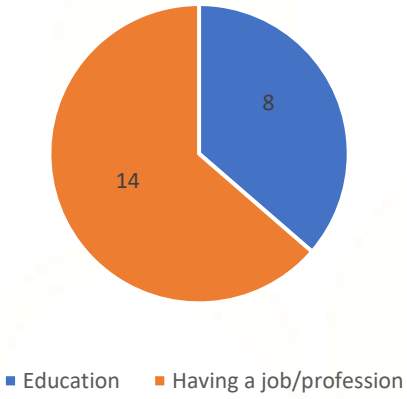
MOTHERHOOD	**Greece**	**Ireland**	**Portugal**	**Romania**	**Total**
Very important	4	6	9	0	**19**
Important	2	4	0	1	**7**

What participants consider important to prepare the future

The views expressed by the new Roma Influencers show that the two aspects considered most important for women's future are the same as those identified by the previous group. However, their order of importance is reversed. Among this group, having a job emerges as the most important factor, while education is the second most frequently mentioned.

These views may reflect the importance attached to factors that can contribute to greater autonomy for women. At the same time, limited educational attainment may constrain their opportunities to achieve such autonomy.

Most important aspect that women should pay attention to prepare their future



Participants' opinions

In this characterisation of the participants, their opinions on various aspects were collected, namely on education, marriage, and motherhood. As happened in the previous report, Roma women were asked to take a stand in relation to several affirmations and on whether the statements were correct or incorrect.

The information collected highlights the right to education for both boys and girls and, more specifically, girls' right to enjoy their childhood and continue their education until they reach adulthood. All respondents considered these two statements to be correct, indicating a shared agreement among the women that these rights should be upheld in practice.

However, 12 Roma women considered education to be a right particularly associated with boys. This may be related to the fact that, within some Roma communities, boys are able to remain in education regardless of their age, whereas girls may face greater restrictions as they grow older. This may suggest that boys' access to education is more widely recognised and accepted within these communities, while girls' right to education may not yet be acknowledged or exercised to the same extent.

A total of 19 women considered that it is not important to marry or have children at an early age, but 15 also have the opinion that age at marriage is something that does matter.

Most of these women recognise that early motherhood can be harmful not only for the mother but also for the baby.

	Correct	Incorrect
Education (being at school) is a right of every child, boys or girls	26	0
Education (being at school) is a right especially for boys	12	14
Education is an obligation without meaning	9	17
The age at marriage does not matter	11	15
Girls have the right to play and go to school until the adulthood age (18 years old)	26	0
It is important to marry at an early age	7	19
It is important to have children at an early age	7	19
Being a mother at an early age can be harmful for the baby health	22	4
Being a mother at an early age can be harmful for the mother health	21	5

SUMMARY

This annex made it possible to characterise the women who participated in the training. The women are concentrated in two distinct age groups: 10 are aged 24 or under, while nine are aged 30 or over.

Most live with their partners, as the vast majority are cohabiting.

They are also predominantly women who had their first child after the age of 18, although nine became mothers before reaching adulthood.

For these women, motherhood is considered more important than marriage.

When thinking about their future, they place the greatest importance on having a job. They regard education as a right for both boys and girls and believe that girls should have the opportunity to enjoy their childhood and remain in education until the age of 18.

They also consider marriage and motherhood at a very young age to be of little importance, although the age at which marriage takes place is still regarded as a relevant factor.

A total of 25 women finished this training. Only one woman dropped out of the training due to a lack of interest.

IV. Annex 8 – Evaluation of Stakeholders

This annex aims to gather feedback from stakeholders who were involved in the project activities in some way or who were in a position to provide relevant views on them. It forms part of the final evaluation, and all partner countries contributed to this process. Each partner was responsible for identifying and reaching those stakeholders considered able to provide meaningful input to the evaluation.

SCHEDULE:

July 2026.

RESULTS IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

In mid-July, Annex 8 was sent to all teams.

The evaluation involved 22 stakeholders, distributed across the participating countries as follows:

- 7 from Greece
- 7 from Ireland
- 7 from Portugal
- 1 from Romania

Opinions about the project activities

Each participant was invited to provide feedback on the activities, considering different aspects such as content, format and design, usability, and accessibility.

National and transnational policy recommendations

Stakeholders' views on the recommendations presented in the national and transnational reports, particularly with regard to their **content**, are very positive, with 16 stakeholders rating them as '*very good*'.

This assessment suggests that the documents fulfil their purpose of compiling and presenting the recommendations effectively.

Content	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	3	5	1	**16**
Good	0	4	2	0	**6**

The **format and design** also received positive assessments from participants.

Format and design	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	2	4	1	**14**
Good	0	5	3	0	**8**

As regards the **usability** of the recommendations, views are generally positive, although one participant assessed their usefulness negatively. This suggests that there is some scepticism about the extent to which the policy recommendations can be applied in the context of Roma communities.

Usability	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	6	1	4	1	**12**
Good	1	5	3	0	**9**
Bad	0	1	0	0	**1**

The **accessibility** of the documents was also assessed positively, with only one participant expressing a negative view.

Accessibility	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	6	3	4	1	**14**
Good	1	4	2	0	**5**
Bad	0	0	1	0	**1**

Regarding the **future implementation** of the recommendations, the large majority of stakeholders believe that this will be possible, with only three participants — from Greece, Ireland and Portugal — considering that implementation may only be partially achievable.

One of the purposes of policy recommendations is also to ensure that they can be well received and **adopted by Roma organisations themselves**. When asked about this possibility, a substantial proportion of respondents considered that this could happen.

However, not all stakeholders shared this positive view, and two respondents assessed negatively the possibility that the recommendations would be well received by Roma organisations.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	6	6	3	1	**16**
Partially	1	0	3	0	**4**
No	0	1	1	0	**2**

Roma Influencers Network

All stakeholders expressed a positive view of the creation of a **Roma Influencers Network**, with 17 considering it a '*very good*' idea.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	5	4	1	**17**
Good	0	2	3	0	**5**

At the same time, all stakeholders recognised the **importance of the project addressing this specific theme**, with 17 respondents considering it '*very important*'.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very important	7	5	4	1	**17**
Important	0	2	3	0	**5**

The same positive view is reflected in perceptions of the Roma Network's capacity to act as a **transformative element within Roma communities**. A total of 16 respondents answered positively, while six considered this potential to be only partial.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	5	5	5	1	**16**
Partially	2	2	2	0	**6**

Stakeholders who answered '*yes*' consider that the Roma Network's transformative potential lies mainly in its ability to strengthen Roma voices, particularly those of women and girls, and to promote change from within the communities themselves. Community trust, strong local role models and opportunities to share experiences can help challenge attitudes and show alternative life paths, especially in relation to early

marriage and early motherhood. Education, training and access to relevant information are also seen as essential, together with strong cooperation between Roma communities, local authorities and organisations. At the same time, campaigns, documentaries and other dissemination activities can raise awareness more widely and contribute to social and policy change.

Regarding the potential obstacles, respondents identified a number of factors. The main obstacles relate to deeply rooted traditions and cultural norms, including resistance to changing established ways of life and the persistence of early marriage. Gender inequality and patriarchal attitudes may also limit the autonomy and public role of Roma women and girls. In some communities, there may be mistrust towards initiatives led by women, particularly when these are perceived as challenging Roma culture and traditions.

Another important difficulty is engaging and retaining participants, especially women and girls from more vulnerable or isolated communities. Fear of public exposure and negative reactions from the community may also discourage participation. In addition, the Network's long-term sustainability may be affected by limited institutional support, insufficient resources and the temporary nature of project funding.

Further training and capacity building may therefore be needed, particularly in areas such as leadership, advocacy, communication and project management. Maintaining strong representation, providing appropriate support and incentives, and ensuring continuity beyond the project period will be essential if the Network is to remain active and effective.

Awareness-Raising Campaign

The Awareness-Raising Campaigns were also positively assessed by stakeholders.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	5	3	1	**16**
Good	0	2	4	0	**6**

As with the policy recommendations, respondents also considered that the Awareness-Raising Campaigns could act as a transformative element within Roma communities. This view was shared by 15 respondents.

	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	7	3	4	1	**15**
Partially	0	4	3	0	**7**

Good Practices Guide

Stakeholders' views on the **content** of the Good Practices Guide are also positive, with 16 respondents rating it as '*very good*'.

Content	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	4	4	1	**16**
Good	0	3	3	0	**6**

The **format and design** also received positive assessments from participants.

Format and design	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	7	4	4	1	**16**
Good	0	3	3	0	**6**

As with the recommendations, views on the **usability** of this Guide are also positive, although one participant assessed its usefulness negatively.

Usability	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	6	3	4	1	**14**
Good	1	3	3	0	**7**
Bad	0	1	0	0	**1**

Here too, the accessibility of the documents was assessed positively, with only one participant expressing a negative view.

Accessibility	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Very good	6	4	4	1	**15**
Good	1	2	3	0	**6**
Bad	0	1	0	0	**1**

When asked whether the practices included in the Guide could inspire transformation and be replicated, respondents gave some of the most positive assessments. This suggests that the good practices identified may be adapted to different contexts and contribute to results that can support meaningful change.

Inspiring transformation	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	7	5	6	1	**19**
Partially	0	2	1	0	**3**
Can be replicated	**Greece**	**Ireland**	**Portugal**	**Romania**	**Total**
Yes	7	5	5	1	18
Partially	0	2	2	0	4

Exhibition

This activity also received a very positive assessment in terms of both its **quality** and the way in which it **reflects the project's theme**. In this latter respect, respondents considered that the project's theme was clearly represented in the exhibitions that took place.

Quality	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	7	5	3	1	**16**
Partially	0	2	4	0	**6**
Reflects the theme of the Project	**Greece**	**Ireland**	**Portugal**	**Romania**	**Total**
Very clearly	7	5	6	0	**18**
In a clear way	0	2	1	1	**4**

The assessment is even more positive when considering the Exhibition's potential to act as a transformative force. As previously mentioned, this activity enabled broad dissemination of the project and may help raise awareness of new realities and alternative approaches.

Inspiring transformation	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Romania	Total
Yes	7	6	5	1	**19**
Partially	0	1	2	0	**3**

Perhaps because of this potential to inspire transformation, almost all stakeholders considered that the Exhibition could be replicated in other contexts and contribute to further change. These may include other contexts involving Roma communities, but also other target groups with similar objectives: promoting change and raising awareness that change is possible and that alternative life paths exist.

SUMMARY

The evaluation involved stakeholders from the four partner countries and shows an **overall very positive assessment of the project's main outputs and activities**. The Roma Influencers Network was particularly well received, as was the relevance of the topic addressed by the project. Stakeholders also recognised the Network's potential to promote change within Roma communities, particularly by strengthening the voices of Roma women and girls, creating role models, raising awareness and promoting change from within the communities themselves.

The **policy recommendations, awareness-raising campaigns and Good Practices Guide** were also assessed positively. The Good Practices Guide stands out for its potential to inspire transformation and for the possibility of adapting and replicating the practices identified in other contexts. The exhibitions received similarly strong assessments, both for their quality and their capacity to communicate the project's theme, reach wider audiences and inspire change.

At the same time, stakeholders identified important challenges to achieving long-term change, including deeply rooted traditions, gender inequality, resistance within some Roma communities, fear of public exposure and difficulties in maintaining participation. The sustainability of the Network will therefore depend on continued training, adequate resources, institutional support and cooperation with Roma communities, local organisations and public services.

V. Annex 9 – Evaluation of Participants

This evaluation annex, which was not included in the previous evaluation report, focuses on participants in the project's various activities. It covers individuals who were involved in, or participated in, these activities and who are therefore able to provide relevant feedback on their experience and on the project more broadly.

SCHEDULE:

July 2026.

RESULTS IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

In mid-July, Annex 9 was sent to all teams.

As already mentioned, this annex was originally intended to be completed in July 2026. However, some of the activities covered by the evaluation were only concluded in September. As a result, the evaluation was postponed until that month.

This evaluation was completed by all partners in a total of 22 responses. The distribution is as follows:

- 7 from Greece
- 6 from Ireland
- 8 from Portugal
- 1 from Romania

Opinions about the project

In this annex the participants could share their general opinion about the project. In general, the opinions reflect a very positive overall assessment.

	Very good	Good
Greece	7	0
Ireland	4	2
Portugal	5	3
Romania	1	0
Total	**17**	**5**

This can be regarded as a success of the project, as it reflects the achievement of its objectives and its ability to make a meaningful difference, particularly given its strong focus on Roma women.

Impact of project activities on reducing early marriage and early motherhood.

All participants had the opportunity to evaluate each activity of the project and their impact in reducing early marriage and early motherhood.

Roma Influencers Network

Regarding the Roma Influencers Network, the overall assessment is very positive. Participants from Greece expressed the most positive views, all of which were rated at Level 4. In Portugal and Ireland, responses were evenly divided between Levels 3 and 4. The participant from Romania also expressed a very positive view. The only less positive response came from Portugal, with a Level 2 rating.

Roma Influencers Network	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	1	6
Ireland	0	3	3
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**8**	**13**

Training of the Roma Influencers

Regarding the training of the Roma Influencers, participants assessed this activity positively, with 13 respondents assigning it the highest level of impact. However, some reservations remain, with one Portuguese participant expressing a less positive view.

Training of the Roma Influencers	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	2	5
Ireland	0	3	3
Portugal	1	3	4
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**8**	**13**

Once again, it should be noted that this was a particularly challenging activity, especially due to the resistance among some Roma women to participating in activities outside their usual environment. Their willingness to take on this role nevertheless represents a significant achievement of the project.

Transnational work

The transnational work is one of the pillars of the project. The involvement and commitment of all partners, together with the close coordination, were positively assessed. The impact of this work in the reduction of early marriage and early motherhood is, however, not consensual.

The opinions expressed are very positive overall, particularly among the Greek participants. Only the Portuguese participants expressed some reservations regarding this impact.

Transnational work	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	0	7
Ireland	0	2	4
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**6**	**15**

Awareness-Raising Campaigns

On this matter, 15 of the participants totally agree that this activity can have an impact in reducing early marriage and early motherhood.

Awareness-Raising Campaigns	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	0	7
Ireland	0	2	4
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**6**	**15**

Naturally, this type of initiative needs to be sustained over time, as meaningful results are more likely to emerge through a consistent and continuous approach. Beliefs and values that are deeply rooted within a culture can be difficult to change; however, initiatives of this kind may represent an important first step towards change, particularly with regard to the rights of women and children.

Policy recommendations

Most participants consider that the policy recommendations could contribute to reducing early marriage and early motherhood within Roma communities. Only participants from Portugal and Greece assessed the potential impact of the recommendations in this area as low.

Policy recommendations	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	1	1	5
Ireland	0	4	2
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**2**	**9**	**11**

Implementing the recommendations requires recognition of the importance of these issues and sustained action if meaningful change is to be achieved. It also requires commitment from professionals and institutions, alongside the willingness and engagement of Roma communities in processes of change. Such change is necessarily gradual and requires time, continuity and trust.

Training of new Roma Influencers

As already mentioned, recruiting and developing new Roma Influencers was, and will continue to be, a major challenge. Bringing new Roma women and girls into the Network and training them to become Roma Influencers is not only challenging but also complex.

The involvement of the existing Roma Influencers in this process was essential. Roma women were involved in training other Roma women, with the aim of enabling them to take on an active role within their communities and to raise awareness about the prevention of early marriage and early motherhood.

All four countries were involved in this activity. Participants are optimistic that these new Roma Influencers can play an important role in helping to reduce the prevalence of early marriage and early motherhood.

Training of new Roma Influencers	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4 (maximum)**
Greece	0	2	5
Ireland	0	3	3
Portugal	1	5	2
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**10**	**11**

Ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the Roma Influencers' role will require close monitoring and ongoing support, particularly given the resistance they may encounter within their communities. Such resistance could discourage their continued involvement or undermine the legitimacy of the role they are seeking to play.

National workshops

The assessment of the potential future impact of these workshops was also very positive, particularly as they helped bring an issue of such current relevance into discussion.

National workshops	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	2	5
Ireland	1	4	1
Portugal	1	3	4
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**2**	**9**	**11**

Good Practices Guide

The assessment of these guides was positive overall. The replication and adaptation of the good practices to different national contexts may contribute to achieving positive results in addressing early marriage and early motherhood, particularly through their prevention and eventual elimination.

Good Practices Guide	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	2	5
Ireland	0	3	3
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**9**	**12**

Exhibition / Festival

This was one of the activities rated most positively by participants, particularly because of its broad public reach and its contribution to raising awareness of an issue as important as early marriage and early motherhood among children and young girls under the age of 18.

Exhibition / Festival	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 (maximum)
Greece	0	0	7
Ireland	0	2	4
Portugal	1	4	3
Romania	0	0	1
Total	**1**	**6**	**15**

Transformation capacity

A final issue concerns the potential of the Roma Network to act as a driver of change within Roma communities, particularly in terms of the extent to which it may contribute to changing behaviours and transforming deeply rooted ways of living and social practices that are closely linked to cultural norms.

Participants generally believe that the Roma Network has this transformative capacity. A total of 17 respondents considered that such capacity clearly exists, while five viewed it as only partial — three from Ireland and two from Portugal. No respondents expressed a negative view in this regard.

Among those who clearly recognised the Network's potential to contribute to change, several factors were identified as supporting this assessment:

- Amplification **of Roma women's and girls' voices**, strengthening their participation and self-representation within their communities.
- **Community-led change from within**, based on the knowledge, experience and involvement of Roma people themselves rather than relying only on external interventions.
- Peer-**to-peer influence and trust**, as messages delivered by people with similar backgrounds and experiences may have greater credibility within Roma communities.
- **Providing further training and access** to information for Roma Influencers and community members.
- Raising **awareness and inspiring change**, both within Roma communities and among policymakers and public officials.
- **Roma Influencers as role models**, showing that education, employment and alternative life paths are achievable.
- Sharing **knowledge and good practices**, supported by training, data collection and institutional cooperation to strengthen the Network's sustainability and impact.

Among those who considered the Network's transformative capacity to be only partial, several potential obstacles to achieving such change were identified:

- Limited time available to dedicate to the different activities.
- Difficulty in changing deeply rooted attitudes and practices within Roma communities, particularly regarding the importance attached to marriage.
- Poverty and socio-economic vulnerability.
- Limited autonomy and availability among Roma women to participate.
- Low levels of participation and engagement among Roma women.

SUMMARY

Overall, the evaluation of the **Roma Influencers Network and the activities developed within the project is very positive**. Participants particularly valued the transnational work, awareness-raising campaigns, exhibitions and festivals, which contributed to increasing the visibility of the project and raising awareness of early marriage and early motherhood within Roma communities and among wider audiences.

The **training and involvement of Roma Influencers** was considered both one of the project's main achievements and one of its greatest challenges. Difficulties included resistance within communities, fear of public exposure and criticism, and the complexity of recruiting and retaining women willing to take on this role. Nevertheless, participants generally believe that Roma Influencers can contribute to change by acting as role models, strengthening women's voices, promoting peer-to-peer influence and raising awareness from within Roma communities.

The **policy recommendations, national workshops and Good Practices Guides** were also positively assessed and are regarded as potentially useful tools for future intervention, particularly in the areas of education, health, institutional cooperation, community engagement and the empowerment of Roma women and girls.

Finally, the Network is widely perceived as having **transformative potential**: 17 participants considered that this capacity clearly exists and five considered it partial, while none expressed a negative view. At the same time, meaningful change is expected to require sustained action, time, trust and continued support, particularly given obstacles such as deeply rooted cultural practices, poverty, limited autonomy and low participation among some Roma women.

VI. Annex 10 – Evaluation of Partners

This annex aims to evaluate the project from the partners' perspective. Each partner was asked to express their opinion on the activities of the project. This evaluation is based on anonymous answers (no identification of the respondent country).

SCHEDULE:

July 2026.

RESULTS IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

In mid-July, Annex 10 was sent to all teams. It was requested one answer per partner entity in a total of 5.

At the end of two years of joint work, from 2024 to 2026, during which all partners were required to maintain a high level of involvement and commitment to ensure the successful implementation of the activities, it is now time to assess the project as a whole. This joint work was carried out with the aim of achieving the objectives established at the outset of the project.

The overall assessment provided by all five partners is '*very good*', reflecting a unanimous view. This assessment demonstrates not only the relevance and timeliness of the topic addressed, but also its importance across the different national contexts.

The project has shown that Roma communities are diverse and that early marriage and early motherhood are present in different forms and to varying degrees across countries, as clearly demonstrated by the national and transnational reports developed under WP2. At the same time, the project has also shown that action is

possible and that interventions of this kind can contribute to fostering change within Roma communities.

Taking the different activities into consideration, the overall assessment is also positive. As shown in the table below, four activities received the most positive assessments regarding their potential impact on reducing early marriage and early motherhood: the two Roma Influencers training activities — the initial training and the training of new Roma Influencers — the transnational work, and the Good Practices Guide.

Activities and approaches according to their impact on reducing early marriage and early motherhood, as assessed by partners

	3	**4 (maximum)**
Roma Influencers Network	2	3
Training of the influencers	1	4
Transnational work	1	4
Awareness-Raising Campaigns	2	3
Policy recommendations	3	2
Training of new Roma Influencers	1	4
National workshops	2	3
Good Practices Guide	1	4
Exhibition / Festival	2	3

Regarding the Roma Network's potential to act as transformative element within Roma communities, all partners agree that it has this capacity, although two consider its transformative potential to be only partial.

The Roma Influencers Network can contribute to change in several ways, and the partners identified several ways in which it could do so.

The factors identified suggest that the transformative potential of the Roma Influencers Network depends on a combination of awareness-raising, empowerment, continuity and access to key services. Advocacy and dissemination activities can help challenge stereotypes and discrimination, while also bringing greater public attention to the issues of early marriage and early motherhood.

The involvement of Roma women and girls is particularly important, as their role as active voices and role models can strengthen the credibility of the messages conveyed and support change from within Roma communities. Their direct participation may therefore have a stronger impact than interventions developed exclusively by external actors.

At the same time, the continuity and sustainability of the Network are essential. This requires ongoing training for Roma Influencers, strong community involvement and close cooperation with schools, health and social services, NGOs and public institutions. Education is also seen as a key factor, particularly through improving access to education and preventing school dropout among Roma girls. Similarly, adequate women's health services can play an important role in supporting the prevention of early marriage and early motherhood.

Overall, these elements point to the importance of a coordinated and sustained approach in which Roma women themselves play a central role in promoting change within their communities.

Just as there are factors that can support transformation, there are also **obstacles** that may hinder or prevent it. Here too, the partners shared their perspectives.

Several challenges may affect the Network's ability to maintain its transformative role over time. One of the main difficulties is keeping Network members and Roma Influencers actively involved, particularly given the limited time available to participate in the different activities. The sustainability of the Network after the end of the project is another important concern, as its continuation will depend on securing adequate resources and maintaining the necessary support.

Strong cooperation with institutions, local organisations and Roma communities will also be essential to ensure continuity and strengthen the Network's work. At the same time, resistance within some Roma communities may limit the role and visibility of Roma Influencers. In particular, women acting as public role models may not always be fully accepted. This means that, in some contexts, more informal and community-based approaches, based on trust and direct contact with women and girls, may be more effective.

SUMMARY

The project received a **very positive overall assessment** from all five partners. The activities considered to have the greatest potential impact were the training of Roma Influencers, the training of new Roma Influencers, the transnational work and the Good Practices Guide.

Partners also recognise the **transformative potential of the Roma Influencers Network**, particularly through the empowerment of Roma women and girls, awareness-raising and change from within communities. However, its future impact will depend on sustained participation, adequate resources, institutional cooperation and the ability to overcome resistance within some Roma communities.

VII. A final note

As a final assessment, it can be said that the Roma Influencers Network was an ambitious project that placed considerable demands on everyone involved. Nevertheless, it succeeded in gaining access to and working within communities where there is still significant resistance to change. Projects such as this can help plant the seeds for future transformation, with the expectation that their effects will become more visible over time.

It is widely recognised that this requires sustained investment, not only from government but also from all organisations and professionals working directly with Roma communities, whether in education, health or other areas. Change is possible, but it needs to be supported and sustained over time. The women who are helping to drive this change now need, more than ever, to feel that this is a shared effort and that they are not alone in facing this challenge.