



Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Department for Equal Opportunities

Office for the promotion of equal treatment
and elimination of discrimination based on
race or ethnic origin



2012 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

WORKING SESSIONS 6

ROMA/SINTI AND, IN PARTICULAR, EMPOWERMENT OF ROMA WOMEN

Italy, Department of Equal Opportunities, UNAR

GENDER AND ETHNICITY: RSC WOMEN IN ITALY

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

It is a great honor for me to be here on behalf of the Italian National Office against racial discrimination (UNAR) and the Department for Equal Opportunities (DPO) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, to talk about Roma women in Italy.

These women experience more vulnerability to social exclusion and poverty than women of the majority population or Roma men. They are more likely to suffer from multiple exclusion due both to ethnic prejudice and gender discrimination.

This prevents them to achieve full integration in society and creates multiple barriers to the inclusion of their children and their access to education, healthcare and social protection.

Effective implementation of the principle of equality, prevention of discrimination, and adoption of measures for the promotion of social inclusion are closely linked.

We are aware of the importance to adopt a **gender mainstreaming approach** in building policies targeting social inclusion.

It is also consequently crucial to consider, while enhancing the level of gender-sensitive policies, the main role Roma women have as mothers and the positive influence of their empowerment on future Roma generations.

Furthermore this process would surely lead to long-term inclusion effects.

In this context, Italian Government adopted its “National Strategy” with a gender-oriented approach which entails: gender based disaggregated data; identification and analysis of discriminatory factors between man and women; formulation of specific

objectives to overcome disparities; definition of indicators to measure their reduction; identification of necessary resources; development and updating of specific strategies;

The above list indicates a road-map, which has already taken its course with regard to various relevant areas, such as:

1. TRAINING AND PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

Increasing training opportunities, with particular reference to the female world and promoting the effective participation of RSC women through certified paths of learning and training;
training female mediators and accompanying RSC women to employment centers.

2. EDUCATION

Preventing discrimination in access to nursery schools and promoting the attendance of RSC children, ensuring access to quality education;
Reducing the number of school drop-outs in first and second degree schools, with particular reference to young mothers.

3. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Monitor living conditions, factors and levels of morbidity and risky behaviors; promoting access to preventive medicine, with particular reference to sexual health, reproductive and maternal-child-health; promoting the active participation of the RSC female population to local social services in view of a use of intercultural mediators

4. HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ACCESS TO HOUSE

Building micro-centers, which meet the specific needs of sedentary RSC families; providing non-discriminatory access to housing, including public housing; ensuring an integrated approach to housing policy, through local inter-institutional cooperation. Thank you for your attention.

Olga Marotti (UNAR)