

Addiction prevention within Roma and Sinti communities

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**Priority Action: Health
Promotion – Prevention**



Coordinator:

Municipality of Bologna (IT)

Partners:

Cooperativa Sociale Società
Dolce – DOLCE (IT)

Health and Social
Development Foundation –
HESED (BG)

Fundatia Parada (RO)

Fundacion Secretariado
Gitano (ES)

Hors la Rue (FR)

Municipality of Venice (IT)

European Forum for Urban
Safety – EFUS (FR)

Roma Public Council Kupate
(BG)

Developmental and
educational centre Novo
mesto (SL)

School of Health Care and
Social Work, Trnava University
(Slovakia)

BACKGROUND

Addiction affects the whole society but it has a deeper effect on Roma communities because of their social exclusion and poverty. The negative effects also spread in the areas and cities where they live, in terms of social prejudices, difficulties of integration, social security, impact on health and social services.

The approach to Roma people and to drugs is usually made in terms of security or law enforcement, rather than in health terms: prevention and addiction treatment fall behind in the background.

Researches have been carried out in Europe on Roma, some of them also on health issues but available data are very limited.

When data exist, they confirm the high levels of disease, but these have not been matched by adequate remedial actions, in terms of access to appropriate treatments, to services and to the design of adequate policies and intervention strategies.



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ACTIONS

1. Research action between Roma and Sinti communities and social-health services dealing with drug prevention and drug.
2. Information / awareness-raising actions addressed to Roma and Sinti young people.
3. Information / knowledge actions addressed to the social-health services dealing with drug prevention and treatment, to increase their competence in terms of multicultural reception.
4. Dissemination at local, national and European level of the project and its results;
5. Creation of an European platform with the aim of carrying on with research and interventions for the reduction of drug consumption/abuse among Roma and Sinti people in Europe.
6. Evaluation of the project and its final results.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. A better understanding of the addiction in young Roma, that is the conditions that lead to drug consumption. This knowledge will be exchanged and disseminated within the EU Member States.
2. A transferable and validated intervention methodology, tailored to the young Roma needs involved in the project and available to health and addiction practitioners and outreach workers in Europe.
3. A pool of trained experienced health practitioners, able to relate to young Roma and offer information on health and addiction services and how to access and use them (WP6)
4. Involvement of young Roma in actions of prevention and their improved awareness of the harmful effects of drug use/abuse.
5. Increased knowledge by young Roma of the health services: what can they provide, how can they be accessed and used .

GENERAL AIM

Contributing to the prevention of use/abuse of legal and illegal drugs among young people in Roma and Sinti communities.

SPECIFIC AIMS

- Increase the knowledge about modalities and spreading of drug consumption among young Roma and Sinti, and about the factors contributing to this use.
- Strengthen the competence of young Roma and Sinti about prevention and enhance the intercultural approach of health operators.
- Raise awareness in the public health sector and in the civil society about the peculiarities of Roma and Sinti communities, promoting adequate health and prevention actions more suited to their needs .

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