

It is estimated that around 180,000 to 350,000 Roma live in Greece, making up 1 to 2.5% of the total population. As evidenced by national and international surveys, Roma face multifaceted discrimination, particularly in the areas of housing, education, employment and health. The Roma population generally **suffers from greater exposure to broader determinants of health problems, live less healthy lifestyles, have poorer access to and lower uptake of primary care and preventive health services, suffer poorer health outcomes**, in terms of **morbidity from both infectious and chronic diseases**. Roma tend to **use health services less** than the general population due to **linguistic and cultural differences** as well as **lack of knowledge** of their entitlements concerning welfare issues and available services.



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Roma women's Empowerment and fighting discrimination in ACcess to Health

# Roma women's Empowerment and fighting discrimination in ACcess to Health

[www.romahealth.eu](http://www.romahealth.eu)

The project is funded by the  
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The project "REACH: Roma Women's Empowerment and Fight against discrimination in ACcess to Health" aims at combating discrimination against Roma, through the development of an inclusive environment in Primary Health Care (hereforth PHC) as well as at supporting equal access for Roma in health services.

The core concept of the REACH project is to utilise Community Centers' services and create a functioning and more efficient network between them, Roma community and Primary Health Care settings, in order to:

- promote Roma's health
- guarantee their rights of access to health care
- inform Roma communities and learn about health issues
- develop the capacities of Community Centers and the PHC staff aiming to meet the needs of Roma
- strengthen cooperation between Community Centers and the PHC

## *"Learning to take care of myself and my community"*

REACH project focuses on empowering Roma women, their families, and youth, both by increasing Roma population health literacy and access to health services, and by piloting a health mediation model. Key role in the project possess the Roma mediators, who are trained to act as "propagating keys" to promote health in their community. In addition, they mediate with the PHC and possess practical tools that they can use for their benefit and the benefits of Roma community.

## *"Working together and contributing to a healthier future"*

The intervention aims to build capacities for more effective cooperation with the Community Centers of the municipalities, the structures of PHC and with the Roma community. More specifically, the project aims to develop the skills of the staff of Municipalities and Community Centers, with or without Roma Branches, as well as the administrative staff, in issues related to health and needs of the Roma.

Through project's pilot implementation and the development of practical cooperation protocols, the creation of interagency cooperation is envisaged between the relevant stakeholders. Also, the project aims at raising awareness of all society's members and key stakeholders on the mutual benefits of Roma integration.

## *"Cultivating an inclusive culture in Primary Health Care"*

The REACH project's intervention towards health care professionals aims at developing cultural competences and cultivating inclusive behaviors for ROMA. In particular, following a mapping of Roma health care provision, as well as corresponding models and best practices, at national and European level for more effective implementation of the EU framework and Greek legislation, the project seeks to raise awareness and build the capacities of HCP in PHC, providing information and experiential activities related to Roma communities, human rights and needs. Within this framework of actions, beliefs and stereotypical behaviors of health professionals regarding Roma before and after project's intervention are assessed.



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