

Expert Meeting on Measuring Poverty and Inequality: SDGs 1 and 10

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Istat strategies for bridging statistical gaps on living conditions of hard to reach population: the cases of Roma people and Homeless

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Istat

1. 2013 - 2016: mapping data sources and authorized/unauthorized settlements of Roma people – the project
2. 2013 - 2016: mapping data sources and authorized/unauthorized settlements – main results
3. 2017 Statistical working group to implement Italian strategy of inclusion of Roma people
4. 2018 - 2021: mapping housing transition projects and the and measuring the results achieved in terms of inclusion of Roma people
5. 2019: preliminary results of the overview of the housing transition projects
6. Renewing the survey on homeless

Since 2013, Istat has been involved in the production of data that could measure social inclusion policies for the Roma population.

In July 2013

National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR)
National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI)
Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat)

signed an agreement to design a pilot information system for **mapping both data sources and authorized/unauthorized settlements** in the **four Convergence Objective Regions** (Campania, Puglia, Calabria, and Sicily)

The fieldwork:

- ❑ a **questionnaire** was initially submitted (face to face) to some Municipalities (Naples, Catania, Bari, Lamezia Terme)

The questionnaire investigated the knowledge and use of data on Roma population, distinguishing between **producer** (the entity/organization responsible and collecting data), **principal** (in charge of data but delegating to a third party their collection) and **user** (using and processing data with a specific purpose, excluding the mere consultation).

The questionnaire also collected information on sources allowing only an **indirect identification** of the Roma population.

Respondents were:

- ❑ **“privileged interlocutors”**: public bodies (e.g. Birth Registry Offices and social services-related Offices) and private social organizations sector/CSO (e.g. relevant NGOs) were interviewed

It was investigated their relevant **methods of work** and the characteristics of the **sources of information** about Roma people

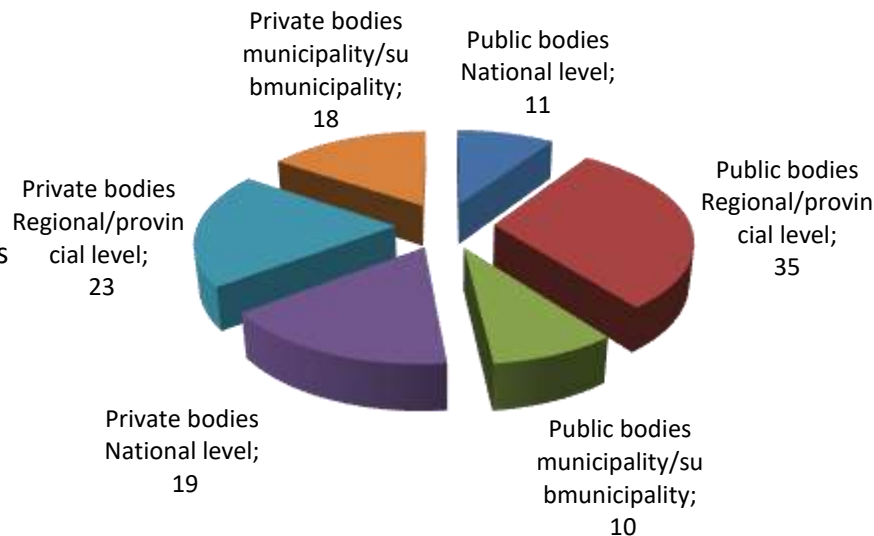
MAIN RESULTS:

116 respondents

Public (56) and private (60) bodies **interviewed** for level of jurisdiction

Public bodies :

- 8 Ministries
- 6 Public Health Institutions
- 6 Bodies belonging to Red Cross
- 4 prefecture
- 4 Center for Juvenile Justice etc.

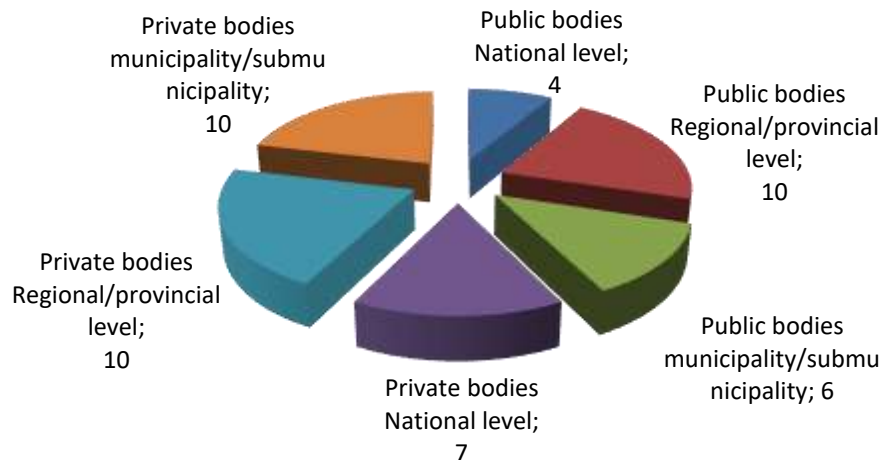


69 (59%) public/private bodies **don't** produce, commit or elaborate data (not specifically focused on Roma population or they are not able to directly identify Roma people or qualitative report oriented)

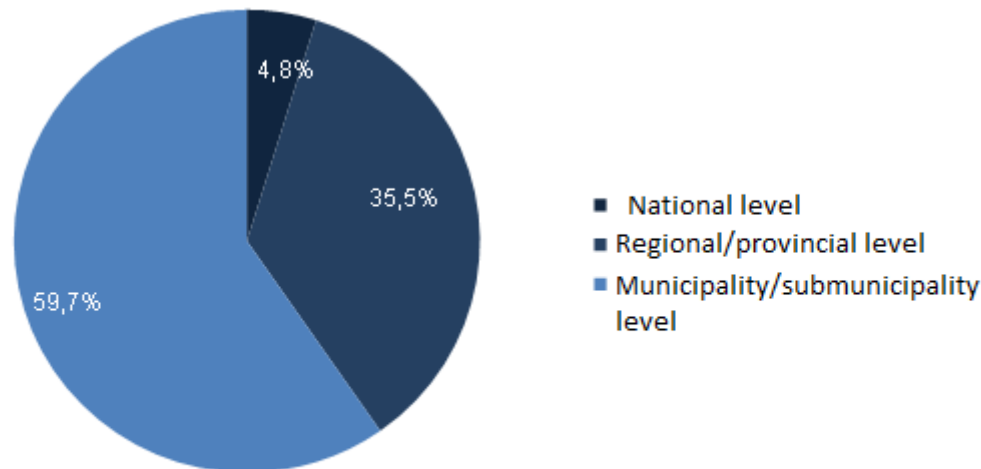
MAIN RESULTS:

47

Public (20) and private (27) bodies **produce, commit** or **elaborate** data on Roma people. The following is the map by level of jurisdiction



62 Data sources on Roma by territorial level



All the data are referred to Roma population using specific services referring to housing, employment, health, education



The whole Roma population is not represented

For further information: https://www.istat.it/it/files/2017/02/Fonti_di_dati_sulla_popolazione_RSC.pdf

MAIN RESULTS:

1) basic data were mainly referred to the situation of the settlements, sanitary conditions and children school attendance information were largely available, but they were collected **without any coordination, extemporaneously, with occasional frequency and using different methodologies.**

2) the data had a disaggregated territorial coverage, which in some cases reached the municipal sub-area.


2014 ANCI- Map of settlements of Roma people

Number of settlements by regions, year 2014 (absolute and percentage values).

Regions	Number of settlements in 2014	
	absolute values	%
Lombardia	88	17.1
Emilia Romagna	88	17.1
Lazio	79	15.3
Piemonte	65	12.6
Toscana	53	10.3
Veneto	32	6.2
Campania	18	3.5
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	18	3.5
<i>Bolzano/Bozen</i>	9	1.7
<i>Trento</i>	9	1.7
Puglia	14	2.7
Liguria	11	2.1
Calabria	10	1.9
Sardegna	10	1.9
Umbria	8	1.6
Sicilia	8	1.6
Abruzzo	5	1.0
Marche	5	1.0
Friuli - Venezia Giulia	4	0.8
Total	516	100.0

For further information: https://www.cittalia.it/images/Gli_insediamenti_Rom_Sinti_e_Caminanti_in_Italia_.pdf

2017 Statistical working group to implement Italian strategy



From 2017 Istat is coordinating an information and statistical working group as one of the measures settled to implement Italy's national Roma inclusion strategy (EU Framework for National Roma integration strategies), with the aim to achieve a shared perspective on scopes and methods of data collection .

The working group is composed by **institutions** (ministries and local government) and **associations** and **stakeholders**. Members are:

- **Istat** (National Statistical Institute) , **Public administrations** (Ministries of Health, Education, Justice etc.)
- **UNAR** (National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office) , **NGOs / Academia / other stakeholders**
- **National Roma Associations Platform** (<http://www.unar.it/cosa-facciamo/national-strategies/rsc-strategy/?lang=en>) established at Unar

In 2018 Istat and UNAR signed a **new** agreement.

The aim of the agreement is to improve the statistical knowledge toward Roma people and develop a system of indicators to monitor inclusion policies, with a special focus on housing.

The Italian National Statistical Program 2017 – 2019 (in its update 2018 – 2019) has included a “work – sheet” (02741; renewed in the National Statistical Program 2020 – 2022) scheduling survey activities on Roma people.

First step:

Map all housing inclusion projects carried out by or in cooperation with municipalities and /or regions targeting housing exclusion and with the objective to overcome formal and informal settlements.

A background web survey (involving UNAR and Roma Associations) was launched in October 2019, in order to assess all housing inclusion projects carried out by municipalities (all municipalities over 15,000 inhabitants; 745 municipalities) and regions.

Roma Associations (endorsed by Unar) have filled out a questionnaire to investigate the projects carried out in which they have been involved or of which they are familiar.

The **second step** will consist of interviewing Roma people who left the settlements and those still living in formal and informal settlements. Questions will deal with living conditions and particularly employment, education and health. In order to assess eliminating spatial segregation and promoting desegregation and non-discrimination, information will be collected on:

- Social and demographic variables (age, sex, etc.);
- Access to basic housing facilities (water, electricity, etc.);
- Access to public facilities (transportation, hospitals, schools etc.)

The **third step** aims at comparing the degree of inclusion of Roma people that left settlements and live in houses (on one hand) and of those still living in the settlements (on the other hand).

The strategy is comparing different situations on the same territories where projects for the overcoming of settlements have been carried out.

A system of indicators will be built, in order to assess the gap in terms of inclusion between Roma in public or private dwellings, and the ones still living in settlements.

A mixed quali-quantitative research method will be adopted, as the target group are too small to allow only a quantitative approach.

The core principles of the survey are: self-identification; voluntary and anonymized data collection, provided with the explicit consent of individuals; involvement of Roma representatives through the National Roma Associations Platform.

Number of Municipalities that filled the questionnaire

	Municipalities	%
Municipalities that carried out projects from 2012	37	6.2
Municipalities that carried out projects before 2012	30	5.0
Municipalities without projects	533	88.8
Number of municipalities that answer the questionnaire	600 (80.5%)	100.0
Total number of municipalities involved	745	

In 2011 and 2014, Istat conducted survey on the condition of persons living in extreme poverty , following an agreement between Istat, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Italian Federation of bodies for homeless persons (fio.PSD) and Caritas Italiana.

The survey aims at estimating the unknown size and some demographic and social characteristics of this population. The sample strategy for the survey refers to the theory of **indirect sampling**, based on the use of a sampling frame indirectly related to the target population. Following the indirect sampling approach, the estimation is performed through the “weight share method”, based on the links connecting the frame of services with the population of homeless

The chosen strategy is to construct firstly an archive of all centres providing services and then to select an indirect sample of persons from the users of these services, to be collected during an appropriate period of time.

The sampling base was represented by the benefits provided (meals served and beds) at the types of services taken into consideration (soup kitchens and night shelters). During the survey month (21 November-20 December 2014), 639 centres were visited: 174 soup kitchens at lunch, 89 soup kitchens at supper, and 376 night shelters.

Renewing the survey on homeless

- It is estimated that 50,724 homeless persons, in the months of November and December 2014, used at least one soup kitchen or night shelter in the 158 Italian municipalities where the survey was carried out.
- This amount corresponds to 2.43 per thousand of the population regularly registered with the municipalities taken into consideration by the survey, a value higher than three years earlier, when it was 2.31 per thousand (47,648 persons).
- However, the population observed by the survey also included individuals not entered in the civil registry, or residing in municipalities other than those where they gravitated. About two thirds of homeless people (68.7%) declared they were in the civil register of an Italian municipality – a figure that fell to 48.1% among foreign people and reached 97.2% among Italians.

Mainly Homeless people are (in 2014):

- 86% **men**;
- **foreigners** (58%);
- they are **less than 54 years old** (76%), on average 44 years old;
- they have at most the **lower secondary school** certificate (65%);
- they live in the **North** of Italy (56%);
- they live **alone** (77%);
- they are **not married** (51%);

- National Statistical Program 2020 – 2022 includes a “work – sheet” (02592) aimed at carrying out a new edition of the survey in order to provide policy makers and users with a complete and updated representation of poverty and inequalities in our country.
- The design in 2020 and the survey in 2021 ?

Thank you for the attention